



SAFETY WORK AT BUSY JUNCTION

Report by Richard Guttridge

MAJOR improvements will be made at a busy junction in Halesowen to tackle congestion and improve safety for pedestrians.

A six-month scheme will overhaul the junction at Dudley Road and Coombs Road in Halesowen, with work to get under way in January.

A pedestrian crossing will be added while the layout of the junction will be altered make it easier for traffic to get onto Dudley Road.

Highways bosses have been trying to find a solution to the problems faced at the junction. Drivers are regularly stuck in delays on Coombs Road during rush hour as traffic heading for the M5 backs up from Manor Way.

Nearly 7,000 people work on the Coombs Wood Business Park and vehicles leaving the site only adds to the delays.

And with around 300 homes set to be built in the area over next five years, bosses want to act now.

Chiefs were also keen to improve safety for pedestrians at the junction, which is close to both Halesowen College and Earls High School.

Currently, schoolchildren and college students have to wait for traffic to stop at the traffic lights before crossing the road but there is no designated pedestrian crossing.

Almost £3 million has been awarded to Dudley Council from the Black Country Executive Committee's Local Growth Fund for the scheme.

Updated

Dudley Council's highways boss Hilary Bills said: "Halesowen College, Earls High School and a lot of other schools are near there so there are a lot of young people who cross there. There is also a lot of new housing in the area.

"At the moment they have to look at the lights, the same as the drivers.

"It really hasn't been updated to make sure it is suitable for pedestrians and that is what is going to happen."

It is the latest highways improvement scheme for the borough following major changes near the Merry Hill shopping centre. That scheme has seen traffic lights upgraded on the main A4036 to ease congestion.

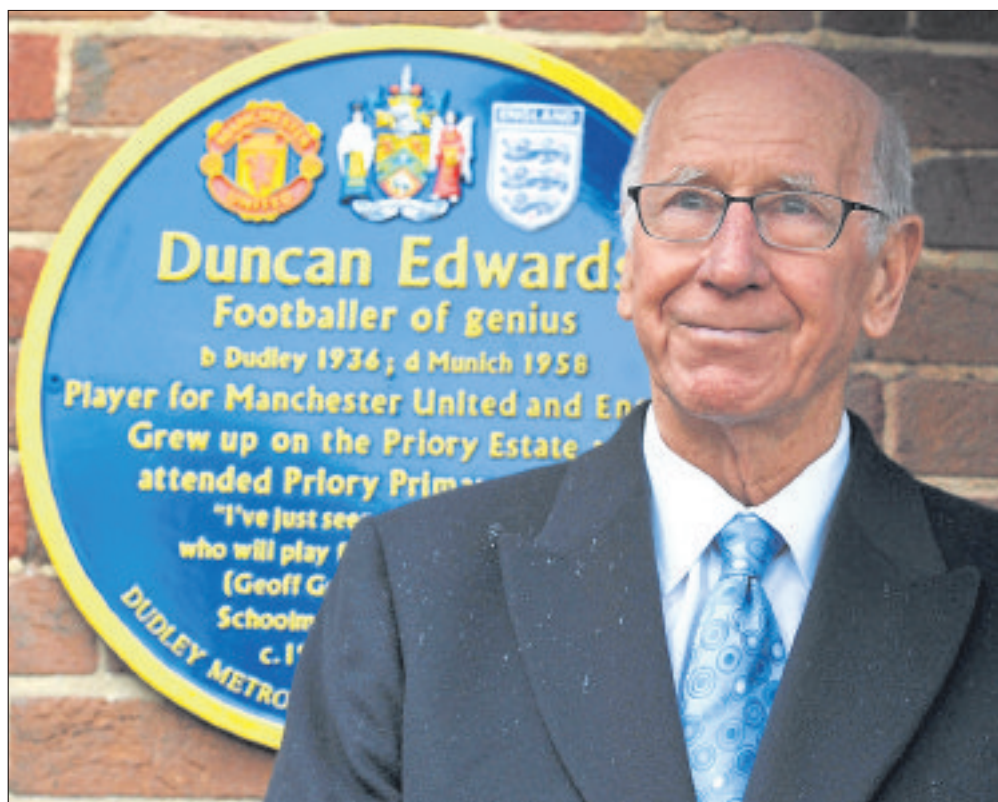
The project is expected to last until the summer and is likely to cause delays. Councillor Bills said the majority of the work would be carried out outside of peak times.

Meanwhile, a road in Halesowen will be temporarily closed for 11 days while gas work is carried out.

Lydiate Road will shut from the junction with Bourne Avenue from October 17 to 28.

The 30-metre closure will enable Balfour Beatty to carry out essential gas main replacement work. Diversions will be along Bourne Avenue, Frankley Avenue, Howley Grange Road and vice-versa.

SIR BOBBY UNVEILS TRIBUTE TO HIS OLD PAL



From one legend to another – Sir Bobby Charlton at the unveiling of a blue plaque in Priory Park, Dudley, to honour Duncan Edwards

SIR Bobby Charlton unveiled a plaque in the Black Country honouring the 'genius' of his close friend, Manchester United and England footballer Duncan Edwards.

The footballing great gave no speech – he left that to the local dignitaries – but he was clearly moved by the occasion, the latest in a series of tributes to the town's talented young player whose career was cut short by tragedy in 1958. During an hour-long reception afterwards, Sir Bobby reminisced with the Edwards' family about the player's generosity – and his Black Country accent.

He delighted those who waited in the rain for him to re-emerge by signing autograph books, programmes and even a girl's jacket.

At a gala evening last on Saturday, Sir Alex Ferguson sent a video message honouring the revered No 6 who died as a result of his injuries in the Munich air disaster of 1958, which killed 23 including eight members of the famous 'Busby Babes' United team.

Twelve members of the player's family were guests of honour at the unveiling, on what would have been Edwards' 80th birthday.

The plaque has been erected in Priory Park where the young Edwards honed his skills during kickabouts with pals. Other memorials include a statue in the town centre, a major road named after the player and a stained glass window in nearby St Francis's Church. The ceremony took place in pouring rain but still many waited for more than three hours to make sure they had a good view.

Sir Bobby, 78, stepped in after Dudley-born Sam Allardyce pulled out after losing his job as England manager last Tuesday.

● Tribute, more pictures – see page 5

CRIME

Puppies snatched from back garden

FOUR puppies were snatched by thieves from a back garden in Cradley Heath.

The seven-week-old cocker spaniels, worth around £750 each, were taken from a pen in Maypole Fields, while the owners were out of the house. Raiders made off with the quartet of pups – two black, one chocolate and one golden in colour.

Jewellery and electrical equipment were also stolen during the raid.

The puppies are micro-chipped and police have appealed for anyone who is offered a cocker spaniel for sale to get in touch with them.

TRANSPORT

Metro extension to begin next year

LONG-AWAITED plans for a Midland Metro extension line in the Black Country finally look set to go ahead – with council chiefs saying work will start next year.

Sarah Norman, chief executive of Dudley Council, said on social media that the project – a tram line between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill – will start next year.

The project has been backed by MPs, councillors and business leaders.

● Opportunity – Page 3

FOOTBALL

Pitch is removed after complaints

FOOTBALL has been banned on part of a playing field in Netherton following complaints from nearby residents.

Homeowners near fields at Dudley Wood Road had become fed-up with balls landing in their gardens and anti-social behaviour. A pitch has been removed with goalposts taken down.

Secretary of Kidderminster and District Football League Ernie Pyke said: "It's absurd. On one hand they are talking about health and they have taken away a football pitch." Dudley environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said teams are being offered alternative facilities.

INSIDE

WIN FESTIVE GIFT FAIR TICKETS



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Doorstep robber cut OAP with knife

A PENSIONER was held at knife-point and cut on the face during a 'terrifying' robbery at his home in Netherton.

A man knocked on the 70-year-old's door in St Peter's Road and pleaded for cash to take his dog to the vets but when the sob story failed the thug pulled out a knife and pushed it under the man's chin.

He suffered a two-inch cut, that required hospital treatment, as he was shoved backwards into the hallway and threatened.

The thief went on to steal a wallet containing £115 in notes and £8 in loose change from the pensioner's kitchen.

The suspect has been described as of white or Asian appearance, aged 30 to 35 years old, about 5ft 10ins tall and of medium build. He has short black hair and had a black scruffy beard. He spoke with a northern accent, possibly from the Newcastle area. He was wearing a dark blue quilted jacket and black or navy trousers.

Terrifying

Detectives have launched an investigation into the robbery which took place on Wednesday night (September 28).

Detective Constable Simon Willmott, of Dudley CID, said: "Thankfully the injury sustained by the

victim was not serious but it was a terrifying ordeal for the victim, who has been left shaken by what happened.

"I would appeal to anyone who was in or around the area on the evening of Wednesday, September 28, and who saw anything suspicious.

"I am also eager for anyone who thinks they know the identity of the suspect to come forward."

Police are following up numerous lines of enquiries, including forensics, speaking to witnesses and a CCTV trawl of the area.

Anyone with information should contact DC Willmott on 101.

Customers launching a campaign to save store

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition calling for the Sainsbury's in Merry Hill to be saved.

The petition was launched in the wake of company bosses announcing the supermarket at the huge shopping centre would close on December 30. In total 121 people had signed the petition by Sunday afternoon.

The supermarket giant has been trading at the centre for almost 17 years and closure will put at risk 193 jobs.

Bosses say that the store was 'underperforming' despite being a fixture at Merry Hill since opening in October 1989.

One shopper from Dudley, writing online, said: "I've grown up with Sainsbury's being an important part of Merry Hill. Save it - for the customers and staff."

A Sainsbury's spokesman said the company would 'look to redeploy people, wherever possible'.

"Like all retailers, we keep our estate under review to ensure our business is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible and to ensure we provide customers with the best possible service. We're now conducting a consultation process with all affected colleagues who we will support through the difficult period ahead."

Caroline Crolley, Unite officer, criticised the company's decision, saying: "I am absolutely astounded. There had been no indication that this was going to happen. We are going to be demanding a meeting with the company."

Biggest campaign yet for £3m hospice revamp

THE Mary Stevens Hospice in Stoubridge has been given the go-ahead for a £3 million redevelopment, which will include a revamp of the day services unit, enabling more patients to be cared for.

The Mary Stevens Hospice will now proceed with the largest fundraising campaign in its history.

Hospice fundraisers are now tasked with raising £2 million of the £3 million required to completely refurbish the day services unit, with a view to start the project in spring 2017.

Since the day services unit opened in 1991, the Mary Stevens Hospice has aimed to provide respite and treatment to people and families living with progressive, incurable life-shortening illnesses in the Dudley borough, 9am-5pm from Monday-Friday.

The day unit is currently running at 100 per cent capacity, meaning they are unable to care for any more patients than they do currently, which has prompted the ambitious plan for a purpose-built building.

Family

Included will be new treatment and consulting rooms, state-of-the-art equipment, improved child bereavement and consultation facilities, improved education and training facilities and a fully-equipped overnight family apartment.

That will offer families the opportunity to stay at the hospice during a critical time. It will also allow the team at the hospice to perform urgent and vital procedures which would previously have had to be done in hospital, such as blood transfusions.

This development is the biggest project undertaken at the hospice since it opened in 1991 and follows on from the success of a £1 million upgrade to the in-patient unit in 2014.

Charlotte Schofield, head of fundraising and lottery at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "This is the news we've been waiting for. To raise an additional £2 million on top of our £2.8 million running costs is going to require a huge effort from our fundraisers, volunteers, supporters and everyone in our local community, but if there's a group of people that can do it, it's this hospice family."

Sculptor back to school for project



Black Country artist Luke Perry unveils his latest work at his old school - King Edward VII college in Stourbridge

A BLACK Country artist has unveiled a new sculpture at the college where he first began developing his skills.

Luke Perry is renowned for creating works which symbolise the Black Country's industrial history, but now he has unveiled an artwork which represents his time at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge.

His dragon sculpture, which is wrapped around a metal signpost, was unveiled to students and staff.

The 33-year-old who has a workshop in Cradley Heath was invited to create the unique sculpture with some of the college's current art students.

Luke and the students have been working since June to design and build it.

Luke said "The fact that we only began in June and it was installed at the beginning of this month meant it was quite an intense schedule. But we were given a lot of freedom by the college and, with

a certain amount of guidance from myself, we were able to create the vision of the students.

"The location of the piece is in a place that is a particular sun trap and where the students go for some space, so the sculpture marks that. The idea is that it's a moral compass. The signpost at the top, rather than being quite obvious in pointing students in the right direction, in fact includes quite enigmatic quotes from films and literature, chosen by the students."

Pub will make way for 20 flats

A PUB in Cradley Heath which has been blighted by anti-social behaviour is to be knocked down and replaced by 20 flats.

The 'Timbertree, in Valley Road, will be bulldozed after plans for housing were given the go-ahead.

A total of 17 one-bed and three two-bed apartments will be built on the site.

The move has been welcomed by Councillor Anne Shackleton. She said: "I welcome the move 100 per cent, and from talking to people in the neighbourhood, they do too. It has been one of our 'grot' spots, an eyesore, for a considerable length of time.

"I look forward to the development starting. It will improve the look of the area and will get rid of anti-social behaviour"

February date for X Factor Live Tour

TICKETS go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for The X Factor Live Tour 2017 at Birmingham's Genting Arena on February 24. Tickets are on general sale from 9am from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. Tickets are priced from £23.30 to £105.80 plus fee.

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Metro line extension is authority's top priority

MULTI-MILLION pound plans for a Midland Metro extension link from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill will start next year, according to a council chief.

The scheme, which has been in the pipeline for nearly two decades, finally looks set to get off the ground after gaining Government backing.

West Midlands Combined Authority bosses have said the Metro extension is set to be the first project completed as part of the region's devolution deal.

The extension would run for around seven miles from the existing line at Wednesbury via Great Bridge, Dudley Port, Dudley town centre, the Waterfront and Merry Hill, before terminating in Brierley Hill town centre.

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman tweeted: "Good progress on Brierley Hill Metro reported at @WestMids CA Board Meeting. Will start in 2017."

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership board member Ninder Johal said: "If we're going to continue to attract inward investment then infrastructure is the number one priority. The formation of the West Midlands Combined Authority and the devolved funding it will bring will hopefully bring much improved infrastructure. The extension from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill is an example of that and also ties in with the extra investment into the Merry Hill shopping centre by Intu."

Dudley Council's Conservative group leader Patrick Harley said: "If people can see the construction, preparation and clearing of sites for tracks as quickly as 12 months' time it will give them confidence in the merits of the combined authority."

Man charged with killing his mother

A BRIERLEY Hill man has appeared in court charged with killing his mother, who died in hospital nearly a month after he allegedly pushed her to the floor on Christmas Eve.

Mark Jennens, aged 39, of Sorrel Walk, Brierley Hill, is facing one count of manslaughter and appeared before magistrates in Walsall last Thursday.

His mother, Hazel Jennens, died in hospital on January 20 after the incident on December 24 last year.

Jennens was bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Thursday, October 27, for a plea and trial preparation hearing.

Zoo enthusiast Jay's promotion

DUDLEY Zoo's Jay Haywood has been appointed assistant curator. The 33-year-old started work at the Castle Hill attraction straight from school. Jay said: "It's a great honour for me as I love working here."

Sunday shopping visit for Archbishop



The Most Reverend Justin Welby

MORE details have been released of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Dudley this weekend, which will include a trip to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby will be at the centre on Sunday from 2.30pm. He will arrive at the entrance next to Argos and, along with local church leaders and members, will walk through the centre owned by Intu, stopping to talk to shoppers and workers.

The Archbishop will move through the mall to the atrium outside Marks

and Spencer, where he will lead a 'songs of praise' style service and give a talk. The event will conclude with popular hymn, Amazing Grace.

Pray

Bishop of Dudley, The Rt Rev Graham Usher, said: "I am delighted that the Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting Intu Merry Hill shopping centre during his time in Dudley and Worcestershire."

"Intu Merry Hill is a major gathering place and contributes significantly to the local economy. Archbishop Jus-

tin will be asking shoppers and staff if he can pray with them and he will be sharing how the Christian faith inspires him daily."

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior bishop in the Church of England, and Eton and Cambridge University-educated Mr Welby is the 105th.

He had worked in the oil industry before his ordination and served as a rector in Warwickshire, as Dean of Liverpool and then Bishop of Durham before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013.

GP surgery to reopen after sudden closure

A GP's surgery in Halesowen which closed without notice due to a row over rent, is due to reopen again later this month.

Patients at the Coombs Wood Surgery were stunned when they turned up for appointments at the end of May, only to find it shut with a bailiff's note on the door.

At a meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee in the town on Friday, which was packed with patients looking for answers, it was announced that the practice is due to re-open with a provisional date set for Monday, October 17.

The committee confirmed that the closure had come about due to a dispute over rent, but many attendees left unhappy that they were not given a better explanation at the meeting held at the Zion Christian Centre.

Patient at the surgery for more than 30 years, Pauline Riley said: "Closing like that is not something that the surgery would want to be famous, or infamous, for."

Ms Riley added: "It was not made clear to us that questions would have to be submitted to be answered at the meeting. And you could only submit them by email, which not everyone here has access to."

Resolved

Member of the patient participation group, Jenny Woolford said: "We are very pleased that the situation has been resolved."

The surgery in Coombs Road, was taken over two years ago by Stourside Medical Practice, who also oversee Halesowen Health Centre and Tenlands Road Surgery. It has more than 1,000 patients on its books.

Also at the meeting was Rose Cooke, daughter of landlord Dr Humphrey Akufi-tetteh, who originally opened the surgery in 1985 before retiring three years ago. She said: "For 10 months the rent was not paid. They were given warnings but they left us with no choice. It has only been resolved because the CCG (clinical commissioning group) will now be paying the rent directly to the landlord."

Announcing the reopening, chairman of the committee Steve Wellings said: "Dudley CCG Primary Care Commissioning Committee is delighted for the people of Halesowen, to finally see the resolution to the private landlord dispute and to hear that a new lease has been signed for Coombs Wood Surgery."

Fans out in force for Stars Wars toys



Halesowen Star Wars enthusiast Jonathan Hipkiss queued for four hours at Oldbury Toys R Us

STAR Wars fans gathered at Toys R Us in Oldbury in the early hours for the latest merchandise from the hugely popular sci-fi film franchise.

Rogue One: a Star Wars Story is released in cinemas in mid-December. It recounts how rebels steal the blueprints to the Death Star – a prequel to the classic 1977 movie.

Shops up and down the land unveiled their new toys and col-

lectors items on the stroke of midnight last Thursday. A similar event was held 12 months earlier when The Force Awakens relaunched Star Wars for a new generation, as well as the legions of existing fans.

As with the last event, costumed characters joined in with the fun. Storm Troopers and X-Wing pilots entertained the fans in the queue as the minutes ticked by. Aspiring stand-up comedian Jonathan Hip-

kiss, from Halesowen, arrived at 8pm. The 25-year-old has been a fan of the saga all his life. He said: "Like last year, I've been saving for weeks for tonight."

Chris Cooke, 33, also from Halesowen, enthused about last year's movie and is looking forward to Rogue One, which includes among its stars Birmingham actress Felicity Jones. He said: "I can't wait for December. I'll be living in the IMAX – again."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pensioner hurt in travellers incident

A PENSIONER suffered a broken leg after being struck by a traveller's caravan in West Bromwich just hours after a group of travellers were ejected from a Kingswinford site.

Residents in Old Meeting Lane confronted travellers who were trying to enter Jessons Playing Fields last Thursday night. Police have confirmed a 67-year-old man sustained a broken leg and was taken to hospital as residents tried to stop the travellers, who damaged a bollard in their effort to access the field. Police are trying to trace the driver involved.

Latest digital tech on show at library

VISITORS to a digital festival will have the chance to explore the changing face of digital technology.

A day of free activities and workshops in Halesowen Library will explore coding, offer an introduction to Raspberry Pi, and take a look at stop motion animation and digital music creation.

Other activities on Saturday will include having a go on the Oculus Rift virtual reality headset and seeing 3D printers in action. The event runs from 10am to 2pm. Free tickets can be booked at <http://bit.ly/29msmAo>

Folk award duo in theatre gig

ACCLAIMED folk duo Chris While and Julie Matthews are appearing in concert at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre next Thursday, October 13.

The pair recently released their tenth studio album, Shoulder to Shoulder. Formerly members of legendary folk-rock group The Albion Band, While and Matthews won the best duo category in the 2009 BBC Radio Folk Awards.

See www.whileandmatthews.co.uk for further details.

Toy shop chain marks 35 years in business

TOY shop The Entertainer is celebrating 35 years in business.

Each of its 126 shops, including those at Merry Hill, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, will be holding in-store activities on Saturday, including competitions, balloons and sticker giveaways. There is a scratch card giveaway with every purchase. Visitors can also enter a competition for the chance to win the entire contents of the 2016 catalogue, worth more than £13,300.

US rock band Goo on

AMERICAN rock band Goo Goo Dolls are marking a 30-year career and their 11th studio album, Boxes, with a UK tour including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute in Digbeth next Thursday (October 13). They will be supported by Johnny Lloyd, former frontman of indie outfit Tribes.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

CUSTOMS officers in Austria detained a woman whose hand luggage included her late husband's intestines. She explained that she suspected foul play and wanted them examined by experts. And you thought the worst thing that could fall out of the overhead lockers on to your head was a bottle of duty-free?

THE Labour Conference quote of the week? It must be: "The socialism I believe in is everybody working for the same goal," from Jeremy Corbyn who, during 33 years in Parliament, has voted against his own party at least 500 times.

"I HAVE more roots than Kunta Kinte," said Eva (Catherine Tyldesley) on a trip to Audrey's hair salon in Coronation Street (ITV). Corrie has now been denounced for racism and Ofcom is to investigate. The bizarre part of it is that Kunta Kinte, star of Alex Haley's book and TV series, did not have roots. He was the root. It was Haley, tracing his lineage back to Africa, who discovered his own roots, all the way back to Kunta Kinte. The Corrie line was not only nonsense but an example of middle-class humour being put into the mouth of a working-class character and no-one in the editing process having the balls to say: "That's a really rubbish line. Cut it."



IF Eva had said: "I have more roots than Alex Haley," it would still have been an unlikely line to hear in a Lancashire hair salon but at least it would have made sense. And I doubt anyone would have complained. It was the uttering of an African name that caused offence (either genuine or feigned).

NOW here's a coincidence. On the very day that an open-air park for nudists was announced in Paris, the Australian state of Victoria declared mooning and streaking to be criminal acts. See? It is entirely possible to report this without using the phrase Down Under. Almost.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Borough is worst in area for drug deaths

FORTY people have died as a result of drug abuse in Dudley in the last three years – making it the worst borough in the Black Country for drug-related deaths.

The NHS figures for 2013 to 2015 saw the borough, which has a population of around 312,000, as the worst in the region for drug fatalities.

Next worse was Walsall, where 31 died as a result of drug abuse. It was 26 in Wolverhampton, 18 in Sandwell and five in neighbouring South Staffordshire.

But despite the shock figure, Kerry Trinder, Black Country Services Manager of charity 'Change, Grow, Live' – who deal with drugs, alcohol and social care – said: "Substance misuse is not a widespread problem within the Dudley borough. "In 2014, there were 1,054 Dudley residents in drug treatment. Our Change, Grow, Live (CGL) Atlantic Recovery Centre has had a huge impact on providing support and guidance to people to recover from drug addiction.

Overdose

"Since 2014, the number of service users using opiates has remained stable within the borough."

The Atlantic House Recovery Centre has been run by CGL in Dudley since 2011. It offers substance misuse services, combining recovery models and teaching an ethos of harm reduction, which include medical

assistance and psychological support. Kerry Trinder told of how a change in law had helped tackle the problem of drug users who overdose.

She explained: "One notable advancement has been a change in law, which, in October 2015, allowed the widening of distribution of naloxone. This is a substance which can be administered if a person overdoses on opiates. It works by temporarily blocking the effects of the overdose. Our Dudley service has issued each person who accessed the service for opiate misuse, and was identified as being at high risk of dying from a drug overdose, with a naloxone kit. This means should they overdose, they can administer naloxone themselves."

Some 500 kits have been administered and five have been used to save a life this year. She added: "The key challenge for us is ensuring people know about the support they can receive from us."

By Jamie Brassington

Student's Cambridge bursary



History student Ellie Mullett with David McKinnon-Bell

A STUDENT from Halesowen who gained a place at the University of Cambridge has been awarded a £3,000 bursary for each year of her studies.

Ellie Mullett, of Halesowen, who attended King Edward VI College in Stourbridge, will be studying history at Clare College.

She is one of ten gifted students to have secured the cash from exam board OCR. She can use her money to pay for costs for living costs and tuition. The OCR bursary was set up to encourage more talented young people from the West Midlands to apply to Cambridge.

Ellie, aged 18, said: "To have been given this bursary from OCR is an enormous privilege for which I am hugely grateful. It will mean that whilst at university, I can get involved with all the incredible opportunities which present themselves. Out-of-term time instead of working I will be able to travel or gain valuable work experience."

David McKinnon-Bell, head of humanities, said: "Ellie is quite simply the most driven, fiercely determined student that I have encountered in recent years at this college."

Children are at risk of being exploited

ALMOST 100 children in the Dudley borough are at risk of being sexually exploited, according to safeguarding experts.

The children, aged between 11 and 17, have been identified in an investigation that found a total of 95 children deemed to be at risk of becoming victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Children's services are working to try to make sure the vulnerable youngsters are protected. Of the total, 16 were said to be at 'serious risk' and another two at 'significant risk'. The vast majority of the children – 87 – are girls.

The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board said the number of children deemed to be at risk had increased over the second part of 2015/16. It has also been revealed that of 700 reports of missing children, 220 were 'known young people at risk of CSE'.

The under-fire children's services department is putting together an action plan to try to tackle CSE in the borough.

The department was slammed by Ofsted earlier this year, which rated it as 'inadequate' in areas including 'children who need help and protection'.

Dudley Council has rolled out campaigns to raise awareness. Taxi drivers have been urged to report anything suspicious they encounter.



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Sir Bobby and MP Ian Austin at the unveiling of a blue plaque in Priory Park



Duncan Edwards – best Sir Bobby played alongside



Duncan Edwards' relatives at the charity gala night at Brierley Hill Civic Hall



Sir Bobby Charlton chats to Duncan's cousin Eva Edwards

Day of nostalgia fitting tribute to 'most complete' footballer

IT was a day of nostalgia for a golden age of football – and inevitable comparisons with a tarnished present era.

Above all it was a day of pride in a Dudley, England and Manchester United hero whose sporting talent was nurtured in Priory Park.

Crowds gathered on Saturday to see a plaque unveiled to Duncan Edwards on what would have been his 80th birthday.

Sir Bobby Charlton, who played alongside Edwards at both club and national level, performed the honours. Later former Wolves and Albion players joined guests in a gala at Brierley Hill Civic Hall where a video message from Sir Alex Ferguson was played. The former United boss said he had only seen Edwards play twice, both times in Scotland with the native Glaswegian quipping: "Neither was a good experience for me."

By Marion Brennan

He continued: "I can only go by what Sir Bobby Charlton says about him, that he was the greatest player he ever played with."

Edwards, described by manager Matt Busby as the 'most complete footballer in Britain – possibly the world', was marked out for greatness after winning consecutive titles with United but died of injuries he sustained

in the Munich Air Disaster of 1958 when a plane containing the United team slid off the runway in snowy conditions.

Aged just 21, Edwards had already played 177 games for Manchester United and become the youngest player, at 18, to be capped by England.

Cousin Laurence Brownhill, 73, said: "You always knew when Duncan was coming because you'd hear him kicking a tin can or an old brick. His mother used to tell him to stop ruining his shoes."

Sir Bobby paid tribute to his fellow Busby Babe in the gala dinner programme. He wrote: "To me, Duncan has always been the epitome of football."



Charity gala night at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Check out back yard for Turner art award

GREAT! Summer may now be over, and the nights starting to draw in, but who cares? It's also that time of the year when we can all head down the Big Smoke, roll up at the Tate Modern and admire the entries for the Turner Prize.

I love the Turner Prize, there is something delightfully egalitarian about it.

While all those other fuddy-duddy art competitions require you to be able to do something clever like paint a picture or sculpt a statue, with Turner there is none of that elitism. Never mind talent and all that, have you got a bag of rusty bolts, an old mattress and an empty fag packet? Great, you're in.

The big talking point this year comes from Anthea Hamilton, who wowed the judges with a giant pair of buttocks. The Tate says it brings "a surrealist sensibility to popular culture" and will "seduce the viewer with comic and unexpected combinations of images, materials and words".

Or maybe they are just talking out of their sculpture.

Meanwhile, Michael Dean is nominated for sculptures and installations made from "aesthetically-overlooked materials" like corrugated metal from a shop shutter. And Josephine Pryde presents New Media Express (Baby Wants to Ride), which examines the idea of "seductive qualities of the wider art world." Or a train set to you and me.

Sadly, though, the Black Country is unrepresented, which is a shame. Especially as I see so many potential Turner Prize entries at the bottom of people's gardens every Monday morning. Just before the tatters arrive.

□□□

WE keep being told we face an obesity timebomb. Youngsters spend all day glued to their computers, and not getting enough exercise.

So traditional playground games like tig and British bulldogs are just the sort of thing we should be encouraging, right?

Well, unless you're Tim Cook, headmaster of Hillfort Primary School in Liskeard, Cornwall, who has banned children running from one side of the playground to the other.

Apparently, the idea is to reduce the number of children ending up in the first-aid room. The what? Did they have a first-aid room when you were at school? From what I remember, if you fell over, you sat shame-faced in the corner until the bell and learned to be more careful next time.

Still Mr Cook said he had been 'proactive' – I bet he does 'workshops' as well – by organising activities that don't involve running.

"I left our Year Five class dancing to YMCA just last week," he beamed.

Can't wait to see the new school uniform...

Stunning sunset scenes are captured on camera



The scene in Heath Hayes captured by Louise Harborow



The serene Dudley Rowing Club at Lodge Farm Reservoir

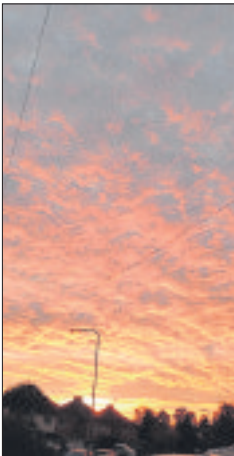


Stuart Cattell's photograph of the sunset over Short Heath

The red sky at night brings much delight



This dramatic shot was captured by bricklayer Glen Farrington



Sue Baugh's Billbrook scene



Andy Stokes took this shot of the sky above Victoria Park in Tipton

IT was a case of red sky at night, photographers' delight as hundreds seized on the opportunity to snap a picture of stunning skies.

Among the best of them posted online was the one taken by mountain biker Glen Farrington from Milford, Staffordshire, looking toward Stafford.

It was taken using a mobile phone – a Galaxy S7 Edge.

The 41-year-old bricklayer was out with his

Photographers came out in force to catch a glimpse of the dramatic skies last week.

SIMON STONE reports

girlfriend Nicky George when he noticed the jaw-dropping skyline at 7pm last Tuesday.

Mr Farrington, who lives in Cannock, said: "We stopped from our riding and chatted before I looked up and took a picture on the phone.

"I didn't realise how well it had come out until I got home. The reaction I've had online has been quite something."

From fiery red to stunning pink – others were able to witness the dramatic sunset.

Centre

Hundreds of people posted pictures they had taken online following the sunset.

From Tipton in the heart of the Black Country, to the centre of Birmingham and Heath

Hayes near Cannock, the red skyline touched the whole region. Pictures also showed the stunning sunset above Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton, the home of Dudley Rowing Club, and in Short Heath in Willenhall.

The old saying 'red sky at night, shepherds' delight' rang true, as clouds cleared for a dry next day.

A red sky at night often means fair weather is generally heading toward the country. It is caused by dust and small particles trapped in the atmosphere by high pressure.

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So where's that land of milk and honey?

VIRTUALLY no day goes by when a letter appears in the paper telling us how marvellous we have been doing since we voted to leave the EU and how good this decision was for this country.

The problem with all that is just the fact that we haven't actually left and that nothing has changed except the political upheaval in both main parties.

A long time ago, the Pilgrim Fathers made a similar decision, boarded the Mayflower and set sail to start a new life. The electorate, unlike the Pilgrim Fathers, ound that

the ship they selected to board had a mutiny and most of the crew jumped ship forcing them to take on a new captain and crew.

Three months on, the boat chosen by the Brexiters is still in the harbour and looks like it will be there for some considerable time. Please, all you Brexiters, stop gloating and patting yourselves on the shoulder, telling all of us how good the decision was for this country. When you find that land of milk and honey then tell us all about it.

D SPECKNER
Dudley

Let's take some pride in our town

HAVING achieved Green Flag status, and proudly flying a flag, all due to volunteers of Friends of Buffery Park, it is soul-destroying to see litter and fly-tipping constantly spoiling this well-used green space.

The whole area is becoming a rubbish tip with even discarded furniture on people's front doors.

It is a blight for Dudley as a whole and, as the council can't keep on top of the problem, time has come to start enforcement.

As traffic wardens are now known as civil enforcement officers, surely that covers dropping litter. Instead of hounding drivers only, it's time litter louts felt pain with a fine. Community help in this would also be very welcome.

Dudley is a great town but needs looking after better. There are weeds and rubbish all over the place. Not really a good welcome for locals and visitors. Other towns seem to take pride of their parks, why can't Dudley?

PAUL WINCHURCH
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Time to be realistic and legalise cannabis

WHILE I agree with the proposals to advocate legalising the availability of cannabis for medicinal purposes, I believe that this is only one element of the wider discussion.

I would contend that because a large number of people need mood changing experiences in their lives, that legalising the availability of cannabis would provide an option to alcohol which would be less dangerous for the individual, the family, and society in general. In an ideal world perhaps there would be no need for such mood changing experiences, but the reality is that many people do have this need.

It is difficult to quantify the number of individuals

who would make the move given equal legal status. Many will say that any such move would afford the public the opportunity to engage in tandem use of drugs.

I would argue that, as most of us have finite amounts of money to finance such recreational indulgences, then this would be relatively low in number. The individual, the family and society in general would all benefit as a result of equal legal availability of the drugs.

I use neither alcohol nor cannabis, so have no personal axe to grind, but am concerned for many in society that would benefit from such a move.

L R FIELD
Dudley

Readers help to save dogs

SEVERAL weeks ago The Chronicle and the Express & Star kindly published my letter asking for help to continue our support of Amicii Dog Shelter in Romania.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has donated dog food, blankets, towels, collars, leads and so much more, as well as financial donations to the vet bills.

The response has been incredible, for which I am extremely grateful.

Unfortunately in Romania, dogs are treated as vermin. They are abused and tortured on the streets and in the vile public shelters in ways which we in our civilised country could not begin to understand.

Thanks to your support the dogs at Amicii are well cared for and safe.

MARION FISHER
Dudley Animal Rescue

Service for the elderly at risk

I HAVE received a letter from Age UK Dudley's Good Neighbours Scheme to say it will be folding in December due to the lack of funding by Dudley Council.

This is devastating news for volunteers, our clients and the good buddy telephone service. Can anyone out there fund our service?

It will be a great shame if we can't keep this great service going.

We are all going to get old. I guess that there will be nothing out there for you with all the cut backs that the council have made.

MRS J BENNETT
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Tempest caught in the doldrums

BALLET REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Tempest
Birmingham Hippodrome
THE Birmingham Royal Ballet brought their Shakespeare season to an end with company director David Bintley's new full-length ballet based on the Bard's final play.

The production began with a spectacular shipwreck, which was apt because I got that sinking feeling as soon as we were introduced to a jolly crew of hornpipe dancing sailors. They were thankfully cast overboard as monster waves, effectively suggested by giant billowing sheets, were summoned by the magician Prospero.

After the drama of a storm at sea, we got to meet Shakespeare's characters – the vengeful castaway Prospero and his innocent young daughter Miranda, their native slave Caliban, plus various Italian nobles and retinue shipwrecked on the island so Prospero can punish them for stealing his crown.

Iain Mackay was a commanding presence as the wronged magician and former Duke of Milan, who takes revenge on the King of Naples and his own brother Antonio, the usurper who took his dukedom. However, he seemed to do more glaring than dancing in this oddly gloomy production.

Similarly, Jenna Roberts as Miranda was a wasted asset, particularly in the second act. But her act one closing pas de deux with Joseph Caley's dependable Ferdinand was a highlight. It was especially effective as it was accompanied by a romantic melody, as much of the score by Sally Beamish got the orchestra to bash and clatter annoyingly.

As Prospero's slave Caliban, Tyrone Singleton danced the part with his



Caliban, danced by Tyrone Singleton, emerges from his shell in The Tempest

usual vigour – going from an apish malvolence to noble savage – although his costume made him look like he had escaped from a Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer sketch.

Mild comedy came from Valentin Olovyanikov as the drunken butler and James Barton as the cowardly jester, teased by Mathias Dingman's suitably quick and impish air spirit Ariel.

For me the finest section was the masque conjured by Prospero in which old world gods and goddesses dance

for Miranda and Ferdinand. Tzu-Chao Chou was a goatishly nimble Pan, Lachlan Monaghan a trident-toting dizzying spinning Neptune with Celine Gittens, Yvette Knight and Delia Mathews as an elegant trio of art-deco style toga-wearing goddesses. It reminded me of Bintley's delirious and delicious reworking of Sylvia, part of BRB's repertoire.

The Tempest continues at the Hippodrome until Saturday. The BRB return with festive family favourite The Nutcracker in November.

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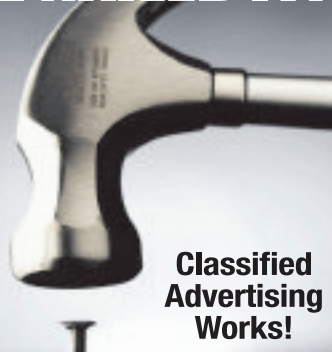
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Paralympics star at old school to receive honour

PARALYMPIC tennis ace Jordanne Whiley returned to her old school to be presented with the freedom of Dudley borough.

The wheelchair tennis star was awarded the honour at St Margaret's at Hasbury Church of England Primary School in Halesowen, where her mother Julie works. Jordanne, aged 24, received a scroll from the mayor of Dudley confirming she is now a freewoman of the borough.

She recently returned from the Rio Games with a bronze medal and last month received an honorary degree from the University of Wolverhampton in recognition of her achievements.

Jordanne said it was 'amazing' to receive freewoman status at her old school, adding: "It has been my favourite day because the kids sang and told me how I'd inspired them. It means so much. I never expected to get anything like this, and to have it here at my old school is really nice."

Memories

"I could choose where I had it, and I just really wanted it here because I have good memories at this school. A lot of the staff are still the same. I just really love it here."

Before being given the scroll and a symbolic glass tennis ball by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Jordanne enjoyed a special assembly that saw pupils sing for her and give a presentation on her life and achievements as a Grand Slam winner.

Among the spectators at the presentation was the sportswoman's proud mother, who said: "The children are always asking me about her, so this has been great for her and for them to come back here. It is lovely."

Deputy head Pam Griffiths knew Jordanne when she was a pupil at the



Jordanne Whiley is presented with the Freedom of Dudley Borough by Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif. Mrs Griffiths said: "We are so proud of her. I tell the children 'Jordanne sat in that seat' and it inspires them and makes them realise that if you have a dream you can achieve it, like she has." Asked what she intended to do with her freedom of the borough, which means that she can now have sheep to graze at Coronation Gardens in Dudley and herd them through the town, Jordanne joked: "My dog does look like a tiny little lamb though so maybe I could just dress him up and herd him."

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Real ale festival held at four pubs

FOUR Black Country pubs are uniting a 12-day beer and real ale festival. Ale connoisseurs can enjoy five real ales from across the world alongside a selection of up to 15 beers from the UK during the festival at The Full Moon on Dudley High Street; The Abraham Darby in the Merry Hill Centre; The Clifton in Bull Ring, Sedgley; and The Waterfront Inn on Level Street, Brierley Hill.

The majority of the beers have been brewed exclusively for the festival.

Overseas beers have been sourced from brewers in Australia, South Africa, Italy and the USA.

The festival will run from Wednesday, October 12 to October 23 inclusive, with all beers priced from £2.05 to £2.45 a pint.

Nanette Young, manager of The Full Moon, said: "The festival is the perfect opportunity to showcase the wonderful range of British-grown hop varieties and support British hop farmers."

Hooray for a Dolly good musical show



Cast members of 9 to 5, from left, Natasha Bennett-Ince as Roz, Lexie Bennett as Doralee, Simon McGee as Franklin Hart Jr, and Maria Shee as Violet

THE hilarious story of three secretaries who wreak revenge on their sexist boss is coming to Wolverhampton.

The hit musical 9 to 5 is performed at the Grand Theatre by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company, who are celebrating 80 years of putting on shows around the area.

The production features original numbers from Dolly Parton's Oscar, Tony and Grammy Award nominated score, including Backwoods Barbie, Shine Like the Sun, and the smash hit, 9 to 5.

It centres on Miss Doralee Rhodes, a kind-hearted secretary who fantasises about lassoing her 'sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot' boss and roasting him on a spit. Co-workers Violet and Judy, also bullied and demeaned by the vile Franklin Hart Junior, concoct a plan to get even with him.

The show launches on Tuesday, October 11, and runs until Saturday, October 15, with shows every night, plus matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. Tickets are £10.50-£20 and available from the Grand box office. Call 01902 429 212.

Views on cycle routes in transport survey

TRANSPORT bosses have launched a consultation on plans for improvements to Black Country cycling routes.

A survey has been started looking for residents' views on the Black Country Cycling and Walking Strategy and Implementation Plan, which has been commissioned by the four Black Country councils with Transport for West Midlands. Councillor Judith Rowley, lead member for fair and safe travel on the West Midland Combined Authority's transport delivery committee, said: "We're aiming for a joined up approach to increase walking and cycling levels across the Black Country and the wider West Midlands and we need to know what people think. This builds on recent local investment in cycle lanes, walking facilities and successful initiatives."

The survey closes at 5pm on October 16. Visit <http://snapsurveys.centro.org.uk/snapwebhost/asp?k=146902228986>

Free heroin injections for addicts is slammed by MP

A GOVERNMENT approved scheme where heroin addicts can safely inject themselves in so-called 'shoot-up' rooms free on the NHS has been criticised.

The controversial treatment features in the Home Office's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy which was signed off by Prime Minister Theresa May in March when she was Home Secretary.

The idea behind the scheme is to give addicts a place that they can use the drug without the danger of it being

cut with impure, possibly deadly substances.

But the method has been slammed by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin who said: "Decent people who go to work and pay their taxes will be appalled to discover Theresa May wants to use taxpayers money to give drug addicts their fix.

Prison

"Instead of this crazy nonsense, she should reverse the cuts to the police so they can put drug dealers in prison and stop them causing this misery in the first place."

Backers of the scheme say that for a

small cohort of entrenched, long-term opiate users who have not achieved recovery any other way, there is evidence that supervised heroin injection reduces crime.

Trials took place in England during 2011 and a European-wide study was published in 2012 which reported positive results but said it would be expensive.

A Department for Health spokesman confirmed that the technique was used in Britain but in 'very rare' cases where all other treatment 'had failed.'

He added that only specialists with a Home Office licence could oversee the injection of heroin.



Ian Austin MP – appalled

Folk fans flock to the Red Lion

WINNERS of the best duo title in the 2015 BBC Radio Folk Awards, Josienne Clarke and Ben Walker, are in concert at Birmingham's Red Lion Folk Club on Wednesday.

They release their new album, Over-night, tomorrow (Friday).

The following Wednesday, October 19, duo Belinda O'Hoolley and Heidi Tiddow play the folk venue at the Red Lion pub in Kings Heath.

They released their latest album, Shadows, in the summer. It was the follow up to The Hum, one of the top folk albums of 2014.

Forthcoming acts at the Vicarage Road venue also include Coope, Boyes and Simpson, Andy Irvin, The Fair Rain and Vin Garbutt. See redlionfolkclub.com for details.

autumn

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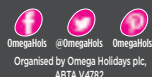
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40 brave elements to attend

Wollaston E TWG

THE first meeting after the summer break was held on a foul evening. Nevertheless 40 members braved the elements to attend.

Chairman Julie Willetts welcomed everyone including two new members, namely Julie Walton and Jennifer Thompson.

Jill Dunn will organise a board for members to sign if they are interested in a visit to Highgrove Gardens - permitted numbers per visit are limited at this venue. The next luncheon date is Bodenham Arboretum on Wednesday, October 19.

Miscellaneous correspondence was read by the secretary, including a note from Jessie Powell and Joanne Forrest thanking the guild for the lovely evening, on the occasion of their talk about vintage jewellery.

The club was informed that one of its members had won a reasonable prize in the guild national raffle.

The choir is shortly to begin rehearsals for the forthcoming carol services and have again been asked to perform at the Federation Carol Service.

Appreciation was expressed to speaker Carl Denning for his enlightening talk on the necessity for guide dogs for the blind.

An extra donation was given to this very worthy cause. Competition winners were Pat McEwan and Julie Willetts, while raffle prizes went to Chris Picken and Barbara Homer.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on October 11 at St James Church Hall.

Twist in the tale of a life in crime

Wordsley M TG

Awards presented for long service

Grange (E) Guild

THE monthly meeting was held on September 6 at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge.

Acting Chairman Chris Holton presided. She read the minutes of the previous meeting which were duly accepted and signed. Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up-to-date financial report.

The Grange Guild Harvest supper had been prepared earlier by the committee and their helpers and then served to members. The two-course meal was thoroughly enjoyed and the evening was voted a huge success. Tea and coffee was then served by the committee.

The sales table consisted of seasonal produce and everything was sold.

The acting chairman had the pleasant duty of presenting long service

awards to members who had served for 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 + years. This was a great surprise to the members with Chris giving a brief report on each member that had received these awards.

Some of these members had also been founder members with some of the ladies serving on Grange Guild committee and West Midlands Federation Committee.

A vote of thanks was given to committee members and their helpers for a lovely evening. The raffle was drawn and four lucky ladies received prizes.

Marlene O'Hanlon reminded members that the last collection for the shoe boxes would be accepted at the October meeting.

THE September meeting was opened by vice-chairman Ann Birchell who welcomed members and visitors.

The Federation report included a Christmas workshop on November 19 at the Ruskin Centre from 10am-4pm, a flower demonstration on December 7 and the annual carol service. The Christmas lunch outing on Monday, December 5, will take place at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley.

A coffee morning is arranged for Wednesday, October 26, hosted by Pat Hadley. A day out at Boundary Mill is being arranged for Thursday, November 3.

Ann had organised a quiz prior to the annual Harvest sale. The next meeting, on Monday, October 17, from 10am, will be a very humorous, although sometime quite serious, talk entitled 'My Life In Crime'.

Dave Wilkins will be looking at some of the aspects of his time in West Mercia Constabulary with an entertaining look 'behind the scenes' all based on actual experiences and incidents - with a twist!

Ladies enjoy Harvest celebration

Kingswinford TG

CHAIRMAN Enid Fennell welcomed two visitors to the September meeting which was a Harvest celebration. So it was great regret that she announced the cancellation of the Federation Harvest Luncheon.

Following the usual necessary business, the celebration began. Harvest hymns were sung, Enid read a prayer, Ann read a poem and Doreen said Grace.

Hot dogs, cider or apple juice were served

by the committee. Members had contributed a large quantity of produce to the Harvest sale, which was disposed of quite quickly. A good time was had by all.

Sally was thanked for providing flowers for the chairman's table. On Monday, Alan Peace will talk about 'bus v bike' - a journey from Lands End to John O'Groats.

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The run up to Christmas Day involves a lot of planning and the hardest, and often most time consuming, part is buying the presents, so get it all done in one day at the Festive Gift Fair and make it fun!

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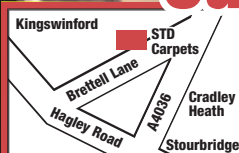
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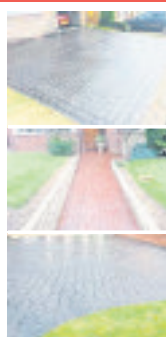
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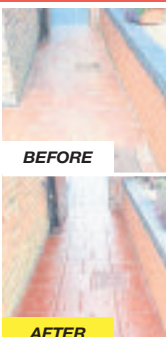
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A senior member of staff views the work taking place at the Rover Group's premises



An abandoned mission statement book in an office



Austin Allegros coming off the production line. The car was produced from 1973 to 1982



Workers seen from the 1980s at Longbridge



The shell of a Rover 75 which has been left abandoned since the collapse of MG Rover in 2005

Abandoned Longbridge's reminders of glory days

THESE pictures show how a huge car factory has been frozen in time since more than 5,000 workers were made redundant.

MG Rover collapsed in 2005, and now photos have emerged from inside its famous Longbridge plant in Birmingham more than a decade on.

Personal items have been abandoned in offices and there are still body shells of the Rover 75 on the production lines.

A photographer, who goes by the name Dab Hand, said it was a 'privilege' to see inside the factory which opened in 1905.

The urban explorer said: "It was completely untouched.

"To think thousands of people used to work there, and it's like it's been frozen in time.

"There were still body shells of cars on the tracks, newspapers from 2009 and personal things people had left in offices.

"I thought everything had been

MEMORY LANE

By David Cosgrove

scrapped or sold off, but it had just been left.

"It was quite sad but also a privilege to see, as Rover was a massive employer in its day."

The images are a sharp contrast to the bustling pictures from the 1980s.

In its heyday, the plant employed 25,000 workers.

There are now around 300 workers left in Longbridge, and in recent weeks Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation – who bought out MG Rover – confirmed it was now stopping assembly and moving everything to China.

With the stopping of assembly, 25 factory staff will lose their jobs.

They will be the last employees to have been employed to construct vehicles at the plant.

The photographer added: "It was so quiet in there.

"When a pigeon flew from the roof it echoed all around the building."



The most recent manufacturing activity at the Longbridge site



The production line of Minis seen in its heyday



Boxes with the MG Rover Group logo on them, strewn about the empty Longbridge plant

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ABTA

Football-mad Isobel meets her soccer idols



Seven-year-old Isobel Roper from Halesowen is pictured with her favourite football team Birmingham City Ladies

A YOUNG footballer from Halesowen enjoyed a day to remember after meeting her sporting heroes from Birmingham City Ladies Football Club.

Isobel Roper, aged seven, was invited to watch her favourite team train at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre in Solihull before receiving an exclusive coaching session. Her mother, Holly, had nominated Isobel as part of the Eze Wishes Initiative set up by club's main shirt sponsors, the Eze Group.

Holly said: "Isobel started playing the sport a few years ago for a boys' team, but in more recent times joined Rowley Wildcats under nine girls. She's football mad! I can't begin to thank Eze Group enough, Isobel had a fabulous day. Now she can't wait to watch her favourite team play at their next home game."

Isobel also received a signed ball, enjoyed a question and answer session with the Blues Ladies and tickets for her and her Rowley Wildcats team mates to watch Blues play Liverpool Ladies.



Isobel had a football masterclass

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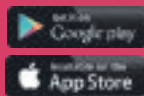
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Marley musical on way to Brum

A NEW musical based on the life of reggae superstar Bob Marley is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

One Love: The Bob Marley Musical has been written by Kwame Kwei-Armah and will feature the Marley songbook, including No Woman No Cry and Exodus.

Endorsed by the Marley family, the musical drama will focus on his stardom in the 1970s when self-imposed exile in London led to a triumphant return to Jamaica to unite a nation that was on the brink of civil war.

The show is at Birmingham Rep from March 10 until April 8, and tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday). See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Untidy borough worry as grass mowing service being reduced

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has slashed its budget on grass-cutting services by £50,000.

The move has come in for criticism from councillors who said the move would leave areas untidy. Council bosses say the authority is facing 'unprecedented times' due to funding cuts from the Government.

UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood, for Wordsley, said: "I think the green care team have had enough cuts. We can't sustain this system anymore there will be trees growing out of traf-

fic lights. It has to be recognised that there has been massive cuts from the Conservative Government but there has been excess waste from Dudley Council which is not sustainable.

Pressure

The cuts to grass cutting services will mean grass in public spaces will be mowed less frequently.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The council has procedures in place to manage and maintain green spaces across the borough. However, as

we face unprecedented times with significantly reduced funding from national Government, this adds massive pressure onto our grounds maintenance teams and has impacted on the level of maintenance we are able to carry out.

"Therefore, in a number of areas, where it is appropriate, we have had to reduce levels of maintenance. This includes a £50,000 saving for 2016/17 through a reduced grass cutting service.

"I would stress that wherever possible we will work hard to try to make sure the majority of open spaces are maintained to an appropriate level."

Sunday market held on car park

A NEW street market has been launched in Dudley with council leaders saying it will help revitalise the town centre.

The Black Country Market and Car boot sale, backed by Dudley Council, will be held every Sunday on the Flood Street Car Park.

The market was officially launched by council leaders on Sunday, October 2, and dozens of traders, shoppers and dignitaries from the town attended, though not invited guest Wolves skipper Danny Bath who was unable to attend due to club commitments.

Economy boss Councillor Kurshid Ahmed said: "I am absolutely thrilled with the new market. I believe 25 traders attended on the weekend but I expect more to turn up next week. Give it four to six weeks, and hopefully the market will be the central attraction in Dudley."

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Car flipped onto roof



The Skoda ended up on its roof Picture: West Midlands Fire

A MAN was taken to hospital after a car flipped onto its roof in a crash on a busy junction in Halesowen last week.

Firefighters believe the Skoda Fabia car and a lorry collided, forcing the car into railings and over onto its roof.

The accident happened shortly after noon last Wednesday (September 29) on the Mucklow Hill island, at the junction with Dudley Road.

A passer-by helped the driver from the car in the aftermath of the crash.

Crews from Haden Cross fire station arrived to help give the man oxygen before paramedics attended.

The motorist was taken to Russells Hall Hospital for treatment. The road junction was partially blocked for around two hours following the accident.

LGBT sport campaign supported at school

STUDENTS at a school in Cradley Heath have teamed up with equality charity Stonewall to show support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in sport.

Year eight pupils from Ormiston Forge Academy wore Stonewall's Rainbow Laces while doing PE lessons to show that they accept everyone without exception and that abuse towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community is not tolerated.

Stonewall has developed a range of measures to tackle the abuse as part of its Rainbow Laces campaign. These include a training programme for sports coaches.

The charity has also developed a sports toolkit for grass-roots and community sport to help build awareness and understanding of the issues affecting LGBT people.

Hundreds of schools and clubs have signed up to join in with a week of action to show that everyone can play a part in making sport everyone's game.

Supportive

Robbie de Santos, head of campaigns at Stonewall, said: "We are working with sports clubs at all levels to show that supporting diversity, in all its form, is the easiest way to build a more supportive and high-performing team and a strong, loyal following.

"The good news is that anyone involved in sport can be part of creating a more welcoming environment for LGBT people."

Forge principal Andrew Burns said: "As a school at the heart of our community, we are used to involving and supporting a wide variety of people with different needs.

"We believe it doesn't matter who you are, everyone should be able to play sport, so signing up to the Rainbow Laces Campaign was a natural step for us.

"It is a fun, easy and instant way to demonstrate that we are fully inclusive and that our students can be true to themselves when they are with us."

Royal ballet dreams are coming true for Amelia

A YOUNG dancer has seen a dream come true after she was told she can dance with members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Amelia Morgan, who attends the Gwynn School of Dance in King'swinford, is thrilled after being chosen by the famed company to take part in a production next year.

The 12-year-old from Wall Heath, who attends Summerhill School, has been dancing since she was three.

She is among a select group of young Midlands dancers who will be given intensive training sessions with the prestigious company to take part in the performance Cinderella Dreams at the Birmingham Hippodrome in February.

Proud father Chris, an engineer, said: "Since she was seven she's wanted to perform for the Royal Ballet. We're bursting with pride for her - it's absolutely fantastic. She starts intensive training next month."

The youngster trains three times a week but will have extra training sessions with the prestigious company in Birmingham.

Mr Morgan paid tribute to his daughter's dance school boss Olga Gwynn and said that his daughter's dancing talent came from his wife Sharon.



Amelia Morgan will be appearing on stage at Birmingham Hippodrome with Birmingham Royal Ballet

Cycle thug robbed woman on towpath

A WOMAN has been punched and robbed as she walked along a canal towpath near Merry Hill shopping centre.

The victim was punched in the face 'a number of times' before being pushed to the ground. The male attacker, who had approached her on a bicycle, stole her bag.

The 21-year-old woman was assaulted on the towpath off Ashton Park Drive at around 5.15pm on Sunday shortly after she left the shopping centre. The attacker is described as white, stocky and wearing a 'Castrol' T-shirt. He rode off on a bike which had no saddle.

Detective Inspector Nigel Smith said: "This was a nasty robbery. Some members of the public on a bridge saw what was happening and shouted at him. I'm anxious to trace these people as they may have vital information."

Email Pc Shelly Punshon at contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or call officers on 101.

£365k paid out to chief who left crime job

A BOSS in the office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner received £365,000 as part of a pay-off after leaving her job, following the election of a new commissioner.

Jacky Courtney, left her role as chief executive on April 30 last year as part of a shake-up following the election of David Jamieson.

Mrs Courtney, who had served as chief executive to the old West Midlands Police Authority for seven years, received a £74,600 'loss of office' payment as well as a £278,900 contribution to her pension pot.

Additionally, she was paid £11,500 in salary and fees for approximately one month's work and received £500 worth of benefits, to total just over £365,000.

The pension payment was made as part of the generous Local Government Pension Scheme that means public sector employers must make all the contributions that would have been paid into the pension fund up to the employee's normal retirement date, even if they have to leave their job.



Jacky Courtney – pension

the police and crime commissioner in 2014, things have changed.

"The office has been reorganised and we now work in a more streamlined, accountable and effective way, even though the commissioner has more responsibilities than the old police authority.

"Thanks to the changes we've already made, we are making savings of £300,000 a year on those old police authority days.

"The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is now a modern, representative and effective workplace. The fat from the police authority days has been trimmed.

"The core annual office budget is lower than the police authority peak, and makes up about 0.3 per cent of the police budget, one of the lowest shares in the country.

"The office is transparent in how it works and details of our expenditure are published on our website."

Stevens history walk

A GUIDED walk to learn about Mary Stevens is being held in Stourbridge.

The 90 minute walk starts at 10am on October 26 from St Mary's Church in Rectory Road, Oldswinford, and takes in Mary Stevens Park.

The walk is free but must be booked by calling (01384) 815279.

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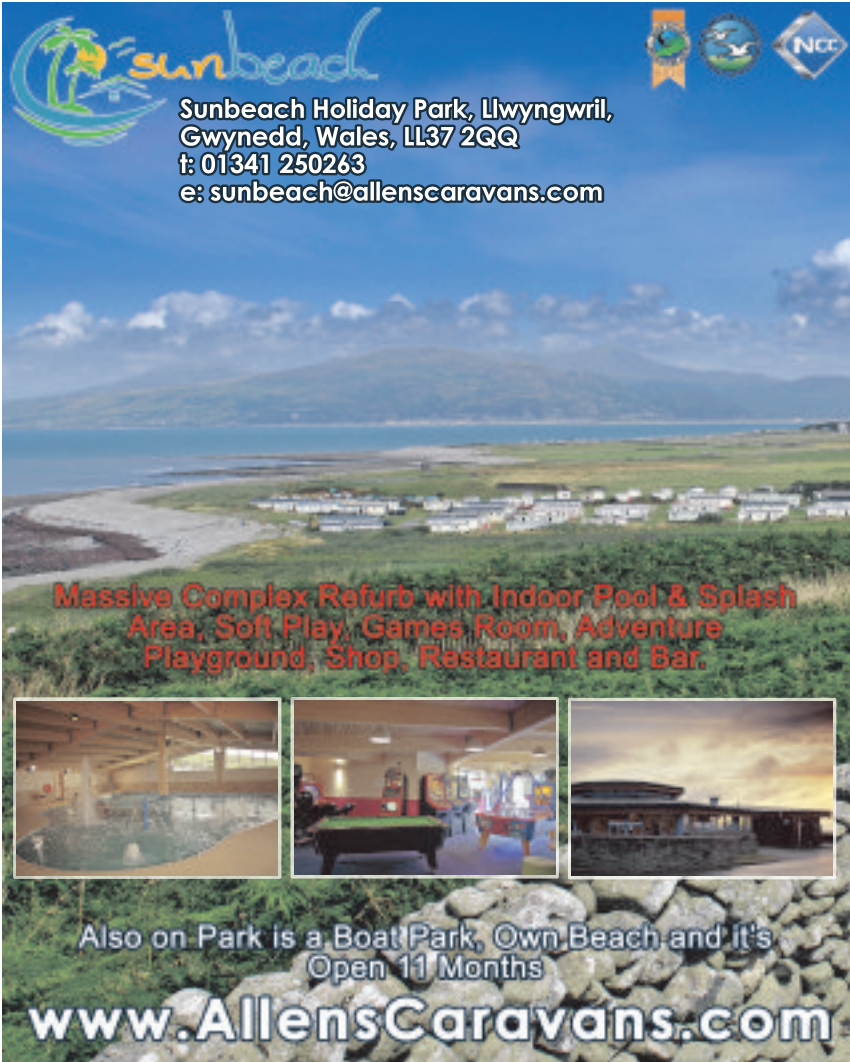
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On the road like living in a bubble

We're laughing before we even start.

Ross Noble's publicist passes the comedian the telephone after issuing me with strict instructions he should be off the phone at an appointed time so that he can be interviewed on radio. So when Ross picks up the phone, I make a joke of it.

"Ross Noble, you only have so many minutes to tell us all about Brain Dump and answer 13 other questions. Start."

He laughs. And so do I. And then he starts to explain his tour, which started with warm-up shows at Telford's Oakengates Theatre and is in Birmingham for two nights at the New Alexandra Theatre on October 17 and 18.

The title is classic Noble. It's turning a negative into a positive through his surreal, stream-of-conscious, dyslexic brain.

"Brain Dump does exactly what it says on the tin. Whatever is in my head, I'm dumping it out there. It came about after somebody left a review on Amazon for one of my DVDs.

Massive

"There were loads of really good reviews and then there was one negative from a person who obviously didn't like my style. He would obviously have enjoyed a more linear style of comedy. He was incensed by my routine, which is fine, you know, not everyone's brain works in the same way and with my stuff you need to have a certain mindset for it to appeal.

"This person had basically expected something different and taken exception when it wasn't. I think they were hoping for a stream of well thought-out one-liners but that's not what I do.

"So they wrote on Amazon that the DVD was like a big, massive brain dump. And though they were trying to be critical, I thought it was quite good. What was intended as a put-down was taken as a compliment. So I decided to run with it."

Ross doesn't have many ideas about what he'll talk about. He'll leave worrying about that until the night before the tour. "It's all just basking it. I usually write stuff down after the show - rather than before - and some of it is quite good."

"I write them down on a piece of paper, then I lose the paper, which I find a year later. And on the paper it will say something like 'disco eggs'. And I think 'what the hell is disco eggs'? That sets my mind going and I'll come up with

something completely unrelated to what the thing was in the first place. If you don't get too locked down in the detail you can keep your mind open and spinning."

I ask Noble if he's a good tourer, by which I mean: does he enjoy being on the road? And, in typical Noble-style, he takes it a completely different way, imagining I'm asking him whether he's a caravan.

"I remember the caravan club: 'I always make sure my chemical toilet is adequately ventilated.' And then he laughs at his own absurdity and answers the question about whether or not he likes being on the road.

"When I'm at home, I have two small children so I'm a bit busy. But when I'm on tour it's great. I can have a bit of a lie-in and do stuff instead. It's hard, I miss my family, but at the same time there's a lot more time on touring for staring out of windows and drifting into your own head.

"People who are on the road live in a bubble. You become the child and don't have to think for yourself. I am taken to a hotel and if it's 2am and I want ice cream I say to someone: 'can I have ice cream please?' and they bring it.

Horror

"I've tried doing that with my wife when I'm back home. I ring her on my mobile if she's downstairs and I'm in the bedroom. I ask her to bring me cheese and biscuits up to bed. And then I tell her not to swear at me." And we both laugh.

Time runs away quickly as Noble prepares for his killer radio interview, which, it has to be said, won't be a patch on this. So we use the remaining time for a quick Q&A.

He stars in horror movies as killer clowns, when he's not on the road, and thoroughly enjoys it. "I love that stuff. We did a horror film last year which should be out next year or later this year. I've also written and am directing and starring in a one-off horror for Sky. That's going to be out in Halloween week. Keep an eye out for that."

He's also a regular on Have I Got News For you and famously sat alongside Paul Merton when the two of them were so rubbish that they scored nil points.

He laughs about it. "Before we went on, I said to Paul 'let's try and get zero points'. He wrote about it afterwards in his book. It was so hard to get no points because if you say anything vaguely near the truth they give you a point. It was good fun and Paul's



Ross Noble took a DVD critique and ran with it

brilliant. There's not many people who are as funny as him and can also put an extra layer on it by getting it all wrong and mucking around."

Noble is dyslexic - a condition that has been more of a blessing than a curse. "It's one of those things that means your brain works in a slightly different way. I find it a little bit tricky with the directing because there's a lot of writing and stuff and scripts.

"That's quite hard. I find that hard. But yeah, if I hadn't have had to find ways around dyslexia I probably wouldn't have ended up doing this. I'd say to any kids who are dyslexic, just find your way round it."

Noble had a farm after moving to Australia. It burned to the ground in a huge fire, leaving him with nothing. "It was a big fire. It wiped out the whole lot. The thing I remember is having to buy new pants. I literally only had one pair because the rest had burned. It is an extreme way of buying new underwear. But that was that, I only had one pair."

He also loves motorbikes. "I do. I did a thing travelling around Devon for a week on a big adventure bike. We had nothing but rice pudding to eat. My friend and I slept rough by the side of the road and made a film about it. Hopefully we'll put that online soon."

The clock's ticking and there's time for one last question. It's about his fans and the type of relationship he enjoys with them.

"In terms of the actual fans, I very rarely get any bad stuff. You hear all the horror stories from other people but it doesn't bother me. Everyone's cool. When I'm out and about in the daytime, people just come up and have a chat. I think they find me approachable because I'm just a bloke who talks b*****g.

"This morning, for instance, I was in a cafe next to the BBC and the woman at the counter told me my sandwich would be less if I had a BBC pass. The woman next to me in the queue recognised me and leant me her pass." Ah the joys. Life's sweet when you're Ross Noble. Happy Days.

By Andy Richardson

Dave Beating drum for band return

It is what all fans of the band want to hear, Dave Wakeling and his latest companions are back marching to The Beat of their own drums.

The boys, originally from Birmingham, are back out on tour as The English Beat and recently played Bilston's Robin 2 supported by Walsall band The Assist.

They have a new album out this month and another due next year and things are looking pretty good. We had a chat with frontman Dave Wakeling to discuss the renaissance.

You're returning to your local area, how do your shows compare here to in other places?

It feels like it's a homecoming. You always want to do your best shows there. It's really about creating an atmosphere, people have known us for years, they sing along to the words and the aim is to connect with them and it makes it easier when a show has that comfortable, hometown feel to it.

When you started in 1979 your songs touched on themes of social, political and musical upheaval, is that still what drives your band?

Pretty much yeah. I have a song on the new record that has a political element within it just like songs have before. We don't behave very well as a species do we? We've spent more time trying to kill other people and their children than we have trying to raise our own. It's a shame, when you're a young person and you're writing songs about political changes you're hoping that everything will get better really quickly, but then as you get older like most



people you start to realise that this change takes a little bit longer and some of the stuff we were singing about when we started just continue happening in front of people. The issues we covered when we started still affect millions of people today, and music can be seen as a call to arms when addressing these issues.

Over almost 40 years of your career your line-up has changed a lot, you've all done your separate musical projects and now you are the last remaining original member of The Beat, how has that affected the band and it's style?

The Beat has always been changing, to me it doesn't matter how big your songs get or how well known you become you've always got to make changes. Sometimes for the band it's so much work alongside these changes but the last few months it's been an absolute pleasure.

Do you still keep in contact with any of the original members?

Yeah we've spoken and met up lots of times since we've gone our separate ways. We sort of have to with interviews and uses of our music and albums so that sort of brings us back together talking. Our relationships with each other are all fairly smooth.

Do you think you'll ever join each other on stage again?

I don't know about everyone, some don't set foot on stage anymore, but some - definitely yes. To us now in the band it's just second nature to get on stage.

What can we expect from your new live shows? Will there be new music?

Yeah, there'll probably be two or three new songs. You've got to be careful how many you do because it's the first time some people have ever heard it and you can lose some people's attention if it's not a fan favourite. In England the first album seems to be the most popular so there will be songs from there for sure mixed in with the new songs. We've been getting great reactions from our latest shows, some people have been coming up to us and saying that our setlists have been the best from any of our tours.

Finally, what's next for the beat?

Our brand new album Bounce comes out on September 30, then we'll be bringing out a new album in February and then we'll be coming to England in June to promote the album.

fast the ticket

Feline fine

War story with a twist
See Page 23



Brothers in arms
See Page 23



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Express & Star

Lisa Mills



Wednesday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Mississippi blues singer and guitarist Lisa Mills is in the raw but soulful tradition of stars like Janis Joplin. Support comes from Black Country guitarist Pete Boddiss.
Visit therobin.co.uk

Romesh Ranganathan



Sunday & Wednesday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The grumpy former maths teacher will focus on what bugs him when he brings his Irrational tour to the Midlands. The tour visits Wolverhampton and Telford next month.
Visit tsh.co.uk

Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show



Monday to Saturday, various
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
The saucy and lurid comedy rock musical about sex maniac aliens that became a phenomenon returns to do the Time Warp again with Steve Punt as the narrator.
Visit www.atgtickets.com/birmingham

Petula Clark



Monday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The singer found fame as a child star during the Second World War and has enjoyed continued success in the UK, France and the USA, still recording after seven decades.
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CLUBBING

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O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

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at The Rainbow Venues
Tonight,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Uprawr
Tomorrow, free entry
The Asylum, Birmingham,
B19 3LS. Call 0121 233 1109

Garage Gathering
Tomorrow,
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RD.
Call 0870 320 7000

25 Years of DJ MAG - Jamie Jones & The Martinez Brothers
at The Rainbow Venues
Tomorrow,
Cellar Door, The Rainbow
Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham,
B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Red Card Student Night
Wed,
Walkabout Inn Birmingham,
B1 2DS. Call 0121 632 5712

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL REGGAE & MOTOWN

Detroit Soul
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Ruts DC
Tonight,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Blues Run The Game
Mon, £2 - £5
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL.
Call 0121 486 1300

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Lisa Mills
Wed, £12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 20-22 01902 401211

ROCK & METAL

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

Food Fighterz
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Joe Brown Solo Show - Just Joe. Plus Special Guest Henry Gross
Tonight,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

ELO Again - A Night of ELO
Tomorrow, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 20-22 01902 401211

The Wedding Present
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Top Ten Beatles
Tomorrow, £15
Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate
Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

Aussie Wrecking Crew Tour 2016
Sun,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Talon (Eagles tribute)
Sun, £17.50 - £19.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Goo Goo Dolls
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Slam Cartel
Thu, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Sunshine Underground + Broken Flags
Thu, £14
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991

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Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
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Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Sing Political!
Wed,
The Prince of Wales Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

CLASSICAL

Sacconi Quartet with Robert Plane: Bromsgrove Concerts
Tonight, £19
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jean-Michel Jarre
Tomorrow,
Barclaycard Arena,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Organ Proms
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Gospel Central
Wed,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

POP

Petula Clark From Now On Tour
Mon,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Level 42 - Sirens II Tour 2016
Tue, £28
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Lloyd Cole
Wed,
Glee Club Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

RAP & RNB

Akala - 10 Years of Akala Tour
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

FESTIVALS

The Quinphonic Festival 3
Sun, £15
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COMEDY

Martin Huburn Tiptonite - Live Lounge Comedy Special
Tomorrow, Free entry
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton,
B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Impney Comedy Night: Roy Walker
Tonight,
Chateau Impney Hotel &
Exhibition Centre, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 0BN.
Call 01905 77 44 11

Queer'Say
Tonight, £5 - £6
Artrix,
Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jimmy Carr - The Best of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour
Tomorrow,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

Kerry Godliman - Stick or Twist
Tomorrow,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational
Tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277
and
Sun and Wed,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Al Murray - Lets Go Backwards Together
Sun,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

BBC Radio 4's Mitch Benn at the Cheeky Monkey comedy club, Moseley, Birmingham
Tue,
The Dark Horse Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8JP.
Call 0121 449 6300

Board Game Smackdown - as part of the Birmingham Comedy Festival 2016
Wed,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Cloaks
Wed, £8 - £10
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE.
Call 01902 321321

Patrick Monahan: That 80's Show
The Old Joint Stock Pub
& Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

Rich Hall
Thu, £17
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

THEATRE

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Tonight - Thu, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Strictly Musicals
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Roxy Magic
Tonight - tomorrow, £12 - £14
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - tomorrow,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

The Duchess of Malfi
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Crescent Theatre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Tempest
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond the Water's Edge
Sun,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

9 To 5 - The Musical
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Carmen - Russian State Opera
Sun,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jane McDonald
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Rocky Horror Show
Mon - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Bardolph's Box
Tue,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Whitney - Queen of the Night
Thu,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

All & Sundry present Of Mice And Men
Thu, £10.75 - £12.75
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

New play from War Horse author



A dazzling jitterbug scene from 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, which is based on a real wartime incident

A STORY about a hushed-up D-Day training disaster, created by the writer of War Horse, will be staged at Birmingham Rep from tonight (Thursday) until October 15.

The play, 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, has been adapted by Michael Morpurgo and Emma Rice from Morpurgo's own book of the same name.

The production enjoyed acclaimed reviews during a season at London's The Globe and is now on the road for its first UK tour. It tells the little-known story of an ill-fated rehearsal of the D-Day landings, when 946 people were killed during Operation Tiger at Slapton Sands in Devon in 1944.

In the lead role of youngster Lily Tregenza is Katy Owen, who appeared in Kneehigh's Rebecca at Birmingham Rep last year and recently as Puck in the Globe's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Lily Tregenza, her family and her cat Tips are trying to live a normal village life in the midst of the Second World War.

Rescue

After being inundated with evacuees from London, village life is halted as American GIs arrive to prepare for the D-Day landings. Lily and her family are moved away from Slapton but Tips gets left behind. Lily sets out to rescue her cat accompanied by townie

friend Barry and a black American GI Adolphus 'Adi' T Madison.

It feels like it couldn't get any worse for Lily and her family, but then the Germans ambush the training fleet with disastrous results for the Allied troops.

Morpurgo said: "There is no theatre company that tells stories more imaginatively, more unexpectedly, than Kneehigh. 946 is based on historical events that took place in and around Slapton as the Americans trained for the landings in France."

"I have witnessed first-hand the way Kneehigh weaves a tale and makes it live on stage for us. For my story to play a part in this is simply a joy."



Blood and tears show

LEGENDARY Liverpool musical drama Blood Brothers is returning to Birmingham Hippodrome for a fortnight's run with Lyn Paul in the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone, the mother of ill-fated twins in this much-loved tearjerker.

Written by Willy Russell, Bill Kenwright's production surpassed 10,000 performances in London's West End over 24 years, one of only three musicals ever to achieve that milestone.

The show tells the story of twin boys separated at birth, only to be reunited by a twist of fate and a mother's secret.

The memorable score includes A Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged hit Tell Me It's Not True.

Lyn Paul, who found fame in the 1970s as a member of chart-topping pop group the New Seekers, returns to the role she played many times in the West End, right up to the show's final performances at the Phoenix Theatre four years ago.

She also featured in Bill Kenwright's tour of Cabaret as Fraulein Schneider with Will Young, which came to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in 2013.

Blood Brothers is at the Hippodrome from Monday to October 22.

Arena spectacular from synth master

A SPECTACLE for the eyes and an audio treat for the ears is anticipated when French electronic music pioneer Jean-Michel Jarre showcases his Electronica albums at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday.

Since his first concert in 1979 celebrating Bastille Day, Jarre's concert history has been unprecedented. He has set and broken World records including one for an audience of 2.5 million at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and for 3.5 million in Moscow. Expect a burst of Oxygen too.

Meanwhile, German synth trailblazers Kraftwerk have announced a concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall for June 13.

Punk veterans and indie rock favourites

IF you're in a rut and you want to get out of it - check out punk-reggae veterans Ruts DC at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday). The Ruts were one of the fiercest political punk bands on the front line of protests in the 1970s, reinventing themselves as Ruts DC after the death of frontman Malcolm Owen in 1980. Featuring original bass player John 'Segs' Jennings and drummer Dave Ruffy - guitarist Paul Fox died in 2007 - the band has upped the reggae content.

Top 1980s indie outfit The Wedding Present, fronted by David Gedge, play the Slade Rooms on Saturday.

Weller's band in Hare & Hounds gig

KEY gigs in Brum include former Husker Du frontman Bob Mould in support of his Patch The Sky album at the O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday).

On Saturday Kate Jackson, ex-Long Blondes, performs songs from solo debut British Road Movies with new band The Wrong Moves at The Rainbow's Mama Roux venue in Digbeth.

Ocean Colour Scene's Steve Cradock and other members of Paul Weller's band play as The Songbook Collective at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday. Following the release of single Lose Control, Leeds outfit Pigeon Detectives play The Sunflower Lounge on Wednesday.

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Boy George

Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George revisits his teenage years. While history may remember the 1970s as being marked by strikes, poverty and civil discord, the singer reveals that – for the young George O'Dowd – the decade was the beginning of his musical, social and sexual coming-of-age. He discusses how sexual repression and disenfranchisement, along with the advent of glam rock, disco and punk, gave rise to the flamboyant persona he would later unleash on the world, via Culture Club's memorable first appearance on Top of the Pops in 1982.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** **12.30 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 BBC News: Weather.** **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **2.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out.** (R) **3.20 Film: Shrek the Third.** (2007) The bad-tempered ogre must persuade a rebellious teenager to face up to his responsibilities as heir to the throne. Animated sequel, with the voices of Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz. **4.45 Can't Touch This.** **5.35 BBC News.** **5.45 Regional Programme.** **5.55 Pointless Celebrities.**

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing. Strictly is nothing if not glamorous, but there are a few extra sparkles this week as the contestants take their inspiration from the silver screen in a movie-themed show, with Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. As ever, Tess Daly introduces the twinkle-toed stars, while Claudia Winkleman chats to them after their performances – and watch out too for the professionals, who will no doubt be kicking off the show off with a spirited effort.

8.50 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, plus a performance by the Shires.

9.40 Casualty. Robyn's plans are thwarted when her healing sweetheart Glen's health takes a turn for the worse. Meanwhile, Dylan's clinical skills are put to the test.

10.30 BBC News: Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Iron Man 3. (2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.30 Film: They Flew Alone. (1942) **8.10 Film: Evening.** (2007) **10.00 Miniature Britain.** (R) **11.00 Lost Land of the Jaguar.** (R) **12.00 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food.** (R) **12.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **1.00 Great British Menu.** (R) **1.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **2.00 Nature's Wildest Events.** (R) **3.00 Flog It!** **4.00 The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg.** (R) **5.00 Gardeners' World.** (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Behind the scenes at the State Opening of Parliament, and a look at how Labour and Conservative MPs conspire together to thwart their party whips. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men pose as traitors to see how the residents of Walmington-on-Sea would deal with genuine Nazi infiltrators in their midst. (R)

8.00 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley. New series. The historian examines Britain's enduring fascination with murder, beginning by exploring how stories of notorious killings entertained the public.

9.00 Artsnight: Michael Palin Meets Jan Morris. Michael Palin talks to Jan Morris, who has spent most of her 90 years writing about far-off places, after shooting to fame as part of the team that conquered Everest in 1953.

9.30 Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia. The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George explains how the social discord and sexual politics of the 1970s informed the development of his pop persona.

10.35 Film: Cabaret. (1972) A flighty nightclub singer in 1930s Berlin is drawn into a love triangle with a sensitive would-be English writer and an aristocratic German, as the Nazi party grows in might and the country heads inexorably toward war. Oscar-winning musical directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse, starring Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey, Michael York and Helmut Griem.

12.30 Film: Marnie. (1964) **2.35 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Sooty.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.05 Super 4.** (R) **7.20 Outbuds.** (R) **7.25 Scrambled!** **Scrambled!** **7.30 Scrambled!** **Nerds & Monsters.** (R) **7.50 Scrambled!** **Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.10 Scrambled!** **Looped.** **8.30 Scrambled!** **Be Cool, Scooby-Do!** **9.05 Scrambled!** **Adventure Time.** (R) **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25 Judge Rinder.** (R) **12.25 ITV News: Weather.**

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tom and Danielle Raffield, whose lifelong passion has been steam-bending wood. They've used the technique to create extraordinary furniture and lighting, but now plan to use it on a larger scale. In an attempt to escape the confines of their tiny gamekeeper's lodge, they have decided to build a wavy wooden house in South Cornwall, completed with curved cladding, twisted furniture and interior walls covered with weathered timber. With a £100,000 budget, the pair have decided to do a lot of the building themselves, and Kevin is on hand to discover whether they're up to the challenge. (R)

8.00 Walking Through Time. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge explores the Jurassic Coast of Devon and Dorset, walking from the 150-million-year-old cliffs of Kimmeridge at its eastern end, back through time to the even older red cliffs of Budleigh Salterton, to reveal why the coast is packed with world-class fossils. Along the way she encounters the biggest sea predator ever to have lived and a global disaster that nearly destroyed life on our planet. Last in the series.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts as Jessica Hynes and guest captain David Williams team on Jon Richardson and Rhod Gilbert.

10.00 Nowzoids. Satirical sketch show blending traditional puppetry and animation, with impressionists Jon Culshaw, Debra Stephenson, Lewis Macleod and Simon Greenall. Last in the series.

10.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell, comedians Jack Whitehall and Alan Carr, and Whiplash star Miles Teller.

11.30 World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Jacqui Oatley introduces action from England v Malta at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate continued his short stint in charge of the Three Lions.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Gillette World Sport. **6.35 Motor Sport: GT Academy.** **7.05 Triathlon: Vittoria-Gastel.** **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 The Morning Line.** **10.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **10.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.30 Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms.** **12.30 Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** **2.00 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Newmarket and York. **4.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** **5.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

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9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts as Jessica Hynes and guest captain David Williams team on Jon Richardson and Rhod Gilbert.

10.00 Film: The Inbetweeners 2. (2014) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird.

12.00 Film: Good Morning, Vietnam. (1987) **2.10 Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.10 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **11.00 FIA Formula E: Season Preview.** **12.00 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.55 Nightmare Tenants.** **2.55 Nightmare Tenants.** **3.55 5 News Weekend.** **4.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R)

6.00 The NCIS Movie: Enemies Exposed. Ziva confronts her past when the team is ordered to protect her father, Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. The agents discover he is being targeted by terrorists who have hijacked a shipment of advanced weapons from the army. Feature-length episode of the drama, guest starring TJ Ramin and Michael Nouri, with Cote de Pablo and Michael Weatherly. (R)

7.45 NCIS: New Orleans. Mardi Gras arrives in New Orleans, and Pride plans to mark the occasion by opening his bar to the public. However, festivities are put on immediate hold for the team when a US Marine is murdered at the hotel where Mayor Hamilton is holding his own party. As the agents head to the venue to investigate, they realise both Hamilton and Pride have disappeared. What follows is a race to locate the pair before they fall victim to their unknown kidnappers' brutal plans.

8.40 NCIS: New Orleans. The team searches for a soldier believed to be a prisoner of war in Afghanistan, when his prints are found in a crime scene.

9.35 Gotham. Gordon and Bullock track down a vigilante balloon seller responsible for the death of a corrupt businessman, and Oswald Cobblepot returns to Gotham. (R)

10.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.

11.30 Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV is helping to bring criminals using weapons to justice. (R)

11.55 Access. **12.00 SuperCasino.** **3.10 The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **4.50 Wildlife SOS.** (R) **5.40 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** Scotland's Vital Spark: The Clyde Puffer **9.00** Beck: The Last Day **10.30** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **11.30** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.05** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **3.05** The Good Old Days **3.50** Close

ITV2 **12.30** The Xtra Factor Live **1.30** Funnies Ever You've Been Framed! **Gold 2.15** **Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** **Film:** Kangaroo Jack (2003) **4.00** **Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** **Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.50** **Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.55** **Film:** The Mask (1994) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** **Film:** The Mask (1994) **10.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15** **Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20** **Film:** American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3 **11.20** **Film:** Carry On Again Doctor (1969) **12.05** **Film:** Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) **1.40** **Film:** Inspector Morse **4.00** **Film:** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** **Film:** Midsomer Murders **11.00** **Film:** You're Only Young Twice **1.55** **Film:** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4 **2.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.35** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.10** **Film:** Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** **Film:** Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **7.00** **Film:** Fierce **8.00** **Film:** Storage Wars **9.00** **Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** **Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15** **Film:** Public Enemies (2009) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** **Film:** Public Enemies (2009) **2.00** **Film:** Hell on Wheels **2.45** **Film:** IVTV4 Nightscreen

E4 **11.05** How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Contraband (2012) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** **Film:** Tube 3 **1.55** **Film:** Gogglebox **4.05** **Film:** Tube 4 **4.25** Revenge

Film4 **1.00** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **2.50** The Train (1964) **5.25** Vice Versa (1988) **7.20** **Film:** Vice Versa (1988) **9.00** **Film:** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.10** **Film:** The Destination (2009) **12.45** **Film:** Lesson of Evil (2012) **3.25** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Layer Cake, Channel 5, 11.05pm
 A London cocaine dealer is all set to leave the criminal world behind and start a new life abroad. However, his plans are thwarted when he is asked to track down a gangster's drug-addicted daughter and locate a stolen shipment of Ecstasy. Crime thriller, starring Daniel Craig. (2004)

WEDNESDAY
The Time Traveler's Wife, Channel 4, 1.15am
 A librarian suffers from a strange condition that causes him to involuntarily move backwards and forwards in time. He marries a woman who was already in love with him after an encounter in his future and her past, but his journeys through history put a strain on their relationship, especially as he learns more about events that have yet to happen. Romantic sci-fi drama based on Audrey Niffenegger's novel, starring Rachel McAdams. (2009)



Django Unchained, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
Delhi-6, Channel 4, 1.40am
 Roshan accompanies his ailing grandmother to Delhi when she insists on dying in the land of her birth. He has spent all his life outside India and is initially awed by everything he sees, especially the close-knit community life and the fusion of Hindu-Muslim culture in his grandparents' old neighbourhood. But the deep-rooted animosity between Hindus and Muslims soon resurfaces, and Roshan, whose mother is a Muslim, is taken aback by the violent hatred he faces. Drama, starring Abhishek Bachchan, Waheeda Rehman, Sonam Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Om Puri. In Hindu with English subtitles. (2009)

FRIDAY
Django Unchained, Channel 5, 10pm
 A slave named Django is tracked down by eccentric German bounty hunter Dr King Schultz, who offers him his freedom in exchange for help bringing three criminals to justice. The unlikely allies continue their partnership after the job is done, and fight to rescue Django's wife from a sadistic plantation owner. Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning Western, starring Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio and Samuel L Jackson. (2012)

There's a web of intrigue for Julien in new case

Two years ago, viewers were gripped by The Missing, which starred James Nesbitt as a distraught father desperately searching for his young son who disappeared during a holiday to France.

The series ended on an ambiguous note – some viewers thought the mystery had been solved, others felt there were still some loose threads left dangling. However, the bad news for those in the latter camp is that this new series won't be picking up where the last one left off.

The good news is Tch ky Karyo is reprising his role as French detective Julien Baptiste to tackle a whole new case. And while the first run largely concentrated on parents dealing with the horror of not knowing what had happened to their child, this one takes a different approach.

Writers Harry and Jack Williams say: "While we were writing the first series, we began talking about what the show would have been had Oliver Hughes been found. This story grew out of that discussion.

"It's the other side of the coin to series one – an exploration of loss, of freedom, of how the past can shape the present in myriad ways that we cannot fully understand. It's bigger, more ambitious, and we're delighted to have such a brilliantly talented cast joining Julien Baptiste for a new case."

That cast includes David Morrissey (The Walking Dead, Extant) and Keeley Hawes (Line of Duty, The Casual Vacancy, The Durrells) as Sam and Gemma Webster, whose daughter Alice went missing in Eckhausen, Germany, in 2003.

By late 2014, Sam and Gemma are barely speaking to each other, and Alice's brother Matthew (Jake Davies) has become violent and withdrawn.

But then a young British woman is found stumbling through the streets of Eckhausen, where she subsequently collapses – and is identified as Alice (Abigail Hardingham).

In theory, her return should be a cause for rejoicing, but the news throws her family into turmoil and sends shockwaves through the tight-

knit German community.

As with the original series, we move between the present day and the original investigation. Even knowing that Alice will be found shouldn't make the series less tense, especially as it seems that she may hold vital clues to the whereabouts of a second missing girl, Sophie Giroux, whose 2003 disappearance was investigated by Baptiste. As the detective heads to Iraq, following a lead that he believes is key to finding the girls' abductor, the Webster family has to deal with what happens when the child you've spent years longing to be reunited with actually comes back.

Executive producer Willow Grylls promises we'll be hooked: "I am so proud to have such a high calibre of cast attached to this project and, with the genius of Harry and Jack Williams' scripts, I know the audience will be gripped to this series just as much as they were to the first. And the beloved Julien Baptiste is back!

"The Missing series two will be just as thrilling, heart-wrenching and character driven as you'd hope it to be."



Tcheky Karyo stars in The Missing, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Derren Brown: Miracle Channel 4, 9pm
 The award-winning hypnotist, mindreader and master of psychological illusion returns to the stage with a show that explores the world of evangelical faith healing, with Derren selecting people from the audience with a variety of ailments and attempting to rectify their problems using only the power of faith and the laying on of hands. The spectacle was created by Derren and his long-time collaborators Andy Nyman and Andrew O'Connor and was filmed over two nights at the Palace Theatre in London's West End.

TUESDAY
World Cup Qualifier Live ITV, 7.15pm
 Commentators Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle have been brushing up on their Slovenia facts as the side takes on England at 7.45pm. This Group F fixture takes place at Ljubljana's Stozice Stadium, and there will no doubt be some inspiring words from Gareth Southgate as he covers four games after Sam Allardyce's surprise departure last month. The Three Lions are obviously hoping to reach the tournament in Russia, but – pushing the big cat theme to breaking point – let's hope pride doesn't

come before a fall. Slovenia have pulled many surprises out of the bag in the past, so it's anyone's guess who will emerge victorious from this showdown. Mark Pougatch introduces the proceedings.

WEDNESDAY
Aberfan: The Young Wives Club ITV, 9pm
 This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, in which 116 children and 28 adults lost their lives when a colliery spoil tip collapsed, burying a village school in South Wales. It was a tragedy that shocked Britain and devastated a community, and now the victims' relatives, some of whom are speaking publicly for the first time, talk about that day and how they have tried to rebuild their lives following such an unimaginable loss. In particular, the documentary focuses on the founding of the weekly Aberfan Young Wives club, which provided an outlet for the bereaved mothers' grief. The members reveal that although the bond they formed has helped them through some difficult times,

there is a part of them that will be forever entwined with the day of the disaster.

THURSDAY
Anne Robinson's Britain BBC1, 8pm

It's probably fair to say that Anne Robinson isn't Britain's cuddliest, cosiest TV presenter, but she does have a softer side, which she displays in the second edition of this series. Robinson is a self-confessed dog-lover, which comes in handy as she celebrates the nation's pet owners, some of which are rather on the eccentric side. Among those she discusses the subject with are a socialite who's obsessed with horses, and a homeless person whose main companion is a canine. There's also a chance to meet the woman who

claims her rabbits helped her cope with her divorce, and the seven London cats with more than a millions Facebook followers. However, it's a segment focusing on what pets say about their owners that proves to be the most entertaining moment.

FRIDAY
Jamie's Super Food Channel 4, 8pm
 While in South Korea, Jamie Oliver meets one of the oldest people in the world and learns about her diet of nutrient-rich, home grown vegetables. Then, in the mountains of Switzerland, he goes looking for healthy grains. Back at home, the chef reveals how one well-known supermarket super food can be used to create numerous, nutritious and delicious breakfasts with 'avocado 4 ways'. He breaks out some colourful vegetables to enhance chicken fajitas for lunch, and adds barley to a beef and Guinness stew for dinner.

Britain's Greatest Bridges Channel 5, 9pm
 New series. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood.

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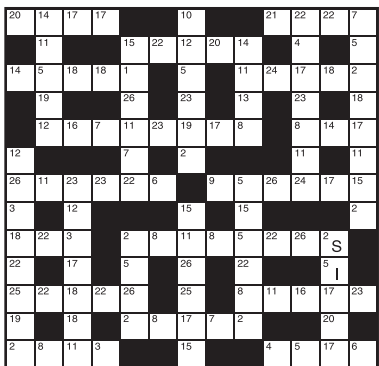
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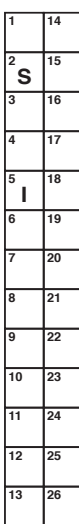
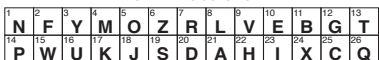
BRAIN GYM No.398

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

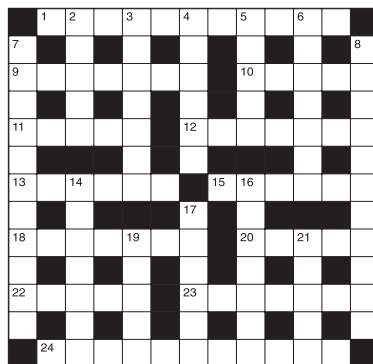
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Motion in favour of standing (11)
9. Lets Rob cook crustacean (7)
10. Subsequently further back? (5)
11. The best of the literature (5)
12. In tones indicating strain (7)
13. Where there's fighting on the weather map? (6)
15. Somehow, pet ran to father or mother (6)
18. Make cuts in the theatre? (7)
20. Gratuity has risen like a theatre seat? (3-2)
22. Animal from Eastern country (5)
23. Residents winning games of chess? (7)
24. Supposition of starting again at the pit-head (11)

Down

2. Priest cut off animal's tail (5)
3. Long suffering person under treatment (7)
4. Priest upset mischievous spirit (6)
5. More than one mark the writer? (5)
6. The team back in the pavilion? (7)
7. Blooming senior? (11)
8. Lead to gap in mountains to make it happen (5,2,4)
14. It's nothing to write a tune out of doors (4,3)
16. In great temptation to try (7)
17. He's neither too big nor too small for a sitting (6)
19. Also two points in the mountains (5)
21. In occupation of a paved area (5)



Quick Clues:

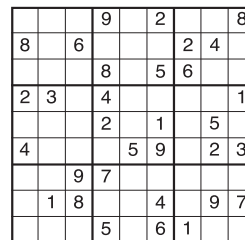
Across

1. Unclassifiable (11)
9. Built (7)
10. Counterfeit (5)
11. Sift (5)
12. Ingredient (7)
13. Niche (6)
15. Quantity (6)
18. Wind (7)
20. Overturn (5)
22. Ingenuous (5)
23. Briskly (7)
24. Affluence (11)

Down

2. Fat (5)
3. Trembles (7)
4. Depress (6)
5. Plunder (5)
6. Upstart (7)
7. Dimension (11)
8. Giving back (11)
14. Goblet (7)
16. Half-drunk (7)
17. Rupture (6)
19. Live (5)
21. Wise men (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Inactive; 5 Idle; 9 Call; 10 Accused; 11 Defer; 12 Pursuer; 13 Statelessness; 18 Restrain; 19 Well; 20 Ignoble; 21 Bound; 22 Elch; 23 Attended. Down: 2 Nearest; 3 Collect; 4 Vice-president; 6 Dispute; 7 Endures; 8 Quires; 13 Service; 14 Arsenic; 15 Enrobe; 16 New moon; 17 Silence. QUICK - Across: 1 Admonish; 5 Calf; 9 Ache; 10 Ignorant; 11 Minor; 12 Tensile; 13 Senselessness; 18 Tangible; 19 Weep; 20 Settled; 21 Petty; 22 Yaps; 23 Detested. Down: 2 Decline; 3 Onerous; 4 Sign the pledge; 6 Avast; 7 Fitness; 8 Doings; 13 Satisfy; 14 Non-stop; 15 Edible; 16 Newness; 17 Sceptre.

Quiz

1. Of which country is Gozo a part?
2. What was the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy called?
3. What is the forename of Johan Cruyff's ex-Manchester United football-playing son?
4. Which type of pilot is named from the Japanese for 'wind of the gods'?
5. In which English county is the chalk figure known as the Cerne Abbas Giant?
6. Which English composer's middle name was Kemp?
7. Which actor/director was born Allen Stewart Konigsberg?
8. Of which country is the Irrawaddy the chief river?
9. How many pounds are there in a hundredweight?
10. Who was the father of Jacob and Esau?

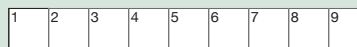
Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Africa; 2 Brighton; 3 Iris;
4 Driving Miss Daisy; 5 George III;
6 Leinster; 7 David Copperfield; 8 Titanium;
9 Australia; 10 Otter.
Niner: RESOLVING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 3588 gives a British statesman,
926451 gives a Greek mathematician,
172198 gives a French novelist.



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Catherine's Palace in St Petersburg, with its turquoise, gold and white facade



The iconic Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen, Denmark



Old City Wall, Tallinn, the medieval capital of Estonia



A magnificent view from Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg

Climb on board to enjoy history, culture, sightseeing and more

By Chris Hutchinson

We had almost decided on a city holiday to Sweden and Denmark when we saw a Fred Olsen cruise which included those two countries, plus the bonus of Baltic Sea countries Estonia, Latvia and Russia – with St Petersburg as the highlight.

The itinerary immediately appealed, and with the help and knowledge from the tour staff, we booked a series of excursions well within our budget.

Leaving from a UK port has many benefits, including extra luggage allowance and speedy embarkation.

After two sunny days' sailing, we entered the Swedish Archipelago, a group of 30,000 islands; our ship Balmoral weaved through a four-hour scenic passage.

Arriving in Stockholm, a panoramic city tour took in the highlights. Strolling around the oldest district, Gamla Stan, you absorb

the heart and antiquity of the city. In Tallinn, a medieval town in Estonia, our walking tour was a great way to soak up sights and sounds of this enchanting place, with narrow cobbled streets, secret courtyards and fairytale towers.

Troubadours and Minstrels entertain, singing and playing traditional songs in authentic dress. Stalls selling hand knitted clothing and amber – known as Baltic gold – are sold at keen prices. Lunch of pork, cooked Estonian style, is a culinary delight.

The next morning, we arrived at St Petersburg, Russia. Two names are synonymous with this extraordinary city, rulers Peter and Catherine the Great, whose influence dominated Imperial Russia and still evident today. We made the most of our first day, with tours of Peterhof Palace and

the Hermitage, which houses more than 2.8 million works of art. Lunch in a typical Russian restaurant started with vodka tasting.

In the evening, we were taken to the Nikolaevsky Palace, featuring a traditional folk show, entertained by musicians, singers and dancers, each routine reflecting different regions of Russia. During the interval, Russian Champagne, vodka, caviar and canapés were served generously. The show ended with a rousing Cossack theme.

Highlights

The city's highlights tour captures the most significant sights of St Petersburg. By now, we were only half way through our cruise.

Riga, regarded as the 'Pearl of Latvia', is characterised by three distinct faces, from 14th century medieval roots, quality Art Nouveau buildings and 19th century

wooden architecture. We visited the Dome Cathedral, while meandering round the quaint old town, you become enthralled in its history. Sailing to Denmark, we had unexpected sight of a pod of dolphins appearing either side of the ship.

Balmoral berthed a short walk from Copenhagen's iconic attraction, the Little Mermaid; despite three serious injuries, she sits serenely on her bed of rocks.

After taking in Copenhagen's highlights, we arrived at the old charming fishing village of Dragor. We strolled the narrow streets of yellow cottages with thatched roofs, gardens ablaze with Hollyhocks, ending with Danish pastry and coffee served at an old inn.

Our final night in Balmoral's theatre featured all the artists and dancers in a spectacular show that left us clamouring for more.

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Dishes start from £2.00 to £9.50

Mixed Skewers

Ghafaghazi - A skewer of grilled cubes of lamb fillet and chicken fillets with onions and peppers, served with fresh salad and rice or fresh naan.

Dishes start from £10.99 to £34.99

Chicken Skewers

Chicken Wings Skewer - Grilled chicken wings marinated in your choice of sauce (hot - saffron - BBQ)

Dishes start from £7.99 to £8.99

Veggie Skewers

Mushroom Skewer - A skewer of mushrooms marinated in a garlic butter. Served with fresh salad and rice or fresh naan.

Dishes start from £5.99 to £7.99

Lamb Skewers

e.g. Koobideh Skewer - 2 skewers or minced lamb mixed with grated onions, salt, pepper and saffron served with fresh salad and rice or fresh naan.

Dishes start from £7.99 to £11.99

Seafood Skewers

e.g. Masala Fish Skewer - Marinated masala fish cooked on a charcoal grill. Served with fresh salad and rice or fresh naan.

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Characterful detached with original features

MUSHROOM GREEN
£270,000

A characterful detached cottage/bungalow in Mushroom Green, Dudley Wood, The Old Cott has many original features and spacious accommodation.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at offers over £270,000.

This lovely home is idyllically situated in the Hamlet of Mushroom Green which dates back to the 18th Century. It is only a short stroll from Saltwells Nature Reserve, the property has an entrance hall, lounge with original working cast iron range, kitchen, conservatory/dining room, master bedroom with en suite, second bedroom, outhouse utility, garden WC, workshop, detached garage and beautiful gardens.

Call The Property Shop on 01384 456022 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk



Spacious three/four bedroom bungalow in secluded area

DUDLEY
£235,000

<<<

This spacious detached three/four-bedroomed bungalow in a secluded location in Junction Street, Dudley has plenty to offer its next owner.

Not only does it have its own private drive and further large driveway, it comes with a workshop and various outbuildings.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £235,000.

It has an entrance lobby, a spacious internal hallway, a lounge with a floor to ceiling bay to the front and double glazed doors leading to the rear dining room. There is also a large fitted breakfast kitchen with a dining area and access to the rear garden, three good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom with low level flush WC and a bath with mixer shower over.

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PEDMORE, Stevens Road£1,350 pcm+ Fees
A beautiful well presented detached 4 double bedroom family home in this very popular location. Accommodation comprises: Reception hall, well equipped kitchen with Range Master Cooker, front reception with doors opening to rear dining room with french door access to a lovely private garden. On the first floor there are 4 bedrooms and a family bathroom with separate shower. Outside there is parking to the front with garage, gas central heating/double glazed. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Huntlands Road£850 pcm+ Fees
Beautiful views overlooking Cleat This lovely 3 bedroom semi-detached property located in this very popular location close to schools & bus routes. Featuring: Large reception room, refurbished modern kitchen/dining area, downstairs cloakroom, 3 good size bedrooms (2 with wardrobes) refurbished modern bathroom with separate corner shower cubicle, mature private rear garden, garage & driveway parking, new gas central heating, double glazed and alarmed. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Chiltern Close£795 pcm+ Fees
An extended 4 bedroom semi-detached house in this quiet location on the popular Squirrels Estate in Halesowen. Featuring a large living room which is having new carpet, separate dining room, double glazing, gas central heating, 3 double and 1 single bedrooms, pleasant rear garden. Separate garage en-bloc. Viewing essential. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Newfield Crescent£795 pcm+ Fees
Stunning large 3 bedroom semi-detached in this very popular location, close to town centre and schools. Front lounge with gas fire, large open plan kitchen with island, dining & living area leading to patio doors and back garden. Downstairs shower room/utility area, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite and dressing area, 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with large jacuzzi bath. EPC: D



HURST GREEN/HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue£750 pcm+ Fees
Located in the ever popular area of Hurst Green, is this semi-detached house, finished to a high standard, comprising 3 bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, modern bathroom with shower, very large lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden, driveway parking and garage, unfurnished. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Springfield Drive£695 pcm+ Fees
With easy access to both Halesowen and Blackheath Town Centre and the M5. This 3 bed semi detached house features 2 good size reception rooms, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, garage with driveway parking, front & rear gardens. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Beecher Street£675 pcm+ Fees
A deceptively large unfurnished bungalow which has just been refurbished. Ideal for buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham and in the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge, modern fitted kitchen, new bathroom with shower. Benefits include central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. Available now. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Buckingham Road£595 pcm+ Fees
A newly painted 3 bedroom semi detached house with front and rear gardens in a popular location. Briefly comprises, entrance porch, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and a further single. Gas central heating, driveway and garage. Available end of October. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Olive Lane £575 pcm+ Fees
A well presented and redecorated 3 bedroom end terrace house in a popular location close to bus links & schools. Featuring reception room, modern fitted kitchen/diner, 1 double bedroom & 2 singles, upstairs bathroom with shower. Also benefiting from large flat garden, double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street West£575 pcm+ Fees
This lovely unfurnished mews terrace property is located close to Halesowen, local buses and for Earls and Windsor High School. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, rear garden. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+ Fees
Part furnished. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room with sofas, kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms (1 with a bed), bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: G



HALESOWEN, Cherry Street£550 pcm+ Fees
A well presented mid terrace house in a sought after location, close proximity to the number 9 bus route and Halesowen town centre. Consists of lounge with feature wall, kitchen diner with plenty of storage and access to the good size rear garden with patio area and lawn, white bathroom suite with corner bath, separate shower cubicle, sink and WC, a large double bedroom and a single rear bedroom. Available November. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Grange Crescent£550 pcm+ Fees
We are pleased to offer this extremely well presented 2 bedroom first floor flat conveniently located close to Halesowen town centre and local amenities. The property comprises of: lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, bathroom suite with shower. Gas central heating, large driveway, parking space & garage. EPC: D



QUARRY BANK, Charles Road£525 pcm+ Fees
Within walking distance to Quarry Bank shops and bus links. This property is also close by to Cradley Heath Train Station and Merry Hill. This homes features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted dining kitchen, bathroom with shower, paved driveway and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



KIDDIMINSTER, Patin House£500 pcm+ Fees
You'll love this charming 1st floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house offering you fully central heating, an open plan lounge giving you generous space to move about, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite worktops, large bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom, allocated parking and well kept communal gardens. Situated in a friendly community. This property is available immediately. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Richmond Court£475 pcm+ Fees
A unfurnished 1 bed 1st floor apartment close to Halesowen Town Centre and bus links. Featuring kitchen with integrated appliances, living room, lovely modern shower room, electric storage heating and on road parking. This property is close to Huntingtree Park and a few minutes drive to Halesowen Town. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Winchester Close£475 pcm+ Fees
A well presented, unfurnished ground floor apartment, close to the M5 J2. This apartment features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC: D



STOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street£425 pcm+ Fees
Fully refurbished apartments within a stones throw of Stourbridge Town Centre and on the number 9 bus route. This stunning 1 bedroom apartment on the 1st floor features an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen, shower room, 1 double bedroom & private rear parking. Not to be missed! EPC: TBC



STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£425 pcm+ Fees
A stunning part furnished apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the 1st floor and features a great size lounge, modern kitchen, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, double glazing and electric heating, on road parking. EPC: C



DUDLEY, Greystone Passage£395 pcm+ Fees
A recently redecorated 1st floor flat within walking distance to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, Garden, off road parking. Unfurnished. This property must be seen and not missed. EPC: E



PENSNETT, St Marks Court£395 pcm+ Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat, close to Russells Hall Hospital, briefly comprising of: electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: TBC

PROPERTY



A splendid extended five-bedroomed semi-detached

In a cul-de-sac position just off the Oakham Road in Dingle Close, this five bedroomed extended semi-detached family home is for sale through Trinity Property at £260,000.

Having double glazing and central heating, the driveway to the front leads to the front door, into an entrance lobby and then into the entrance hall. There are stairs to the

OAKHAM

£260,000

first floor, a door to the downstairs WC and further doors to an open plan lounge/dining room to the front, a through room with doors to the rear garden, a utility area leading through to the modern fitted kitchen with a breakfast bar and with a family

room off. On the first floor there are five good sized bedrooms, and the main bedroom with an en-suite shower/WC room off it. There is also a house bathroom/WC with a bath and separate shower with a separate WC down stairs. The rear garden includes decking.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213 395 or visit the website at www.trinityproperty.net

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£385,000

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This outstanding, considerably extended, superbly re-appointed now four-bedroomed detached home in Ridge Road, Kingswinford is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £385,000.

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KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
DY7 6EP
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

sports & leisure

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR
CORBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET,
HALESOWEN, B63 3AT (NEXT TO WILKINS).
FRIDAY 14TH OCTOBER
8.00AM - 4PM
07783 680 627 / 07800 718 069
www.blackcountryfairs.co.uk

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks & Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA. FREE PARKING. 10 MG
07888 975701 All hard standing

3

Home & Services

furniture



CHESTERFIELD

3 seater and 2 seater.
Colour Oxblood. Brand New
real top leather in the box, never
been used, must sell less than
half the price.
£1,150 can deliver.
Mobile 07342 746919.

NEXT 3 seater sofa, coffee/cream striped, £225. Oak veneer side-board with matching nest of 3 tables, £50. 01902 593652.

household appliances

BEKO FRIDGE freezer 1/2/1, £100.
Other household items. 01902 703528/07908 906406. Coven.
FRIDGE FREEZER, excellent condition, £85. Can deliver.
Telephone 07766 773231.

items for sale

NS SY SFO
RI EDOK MDU DTKM
S O CRU V
RTTS FTLDU DTKM
S TV TD RK

bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one
of hundreds of
customers
who regularly
receive
exclusive
special offers
& discounts.



ClassifiedAds

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
• Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre-47 silver coins All our medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ENS SNGWZQPYO
RMAQ EAONUMRMAQ7
OE FNWSD ZBR BYSW
RMAQ7OSEXQ VMB I EAOM.
- 90C6 CL HL - L

ELECTRIC CONCRETE Mixer.
Can collect. Approx price up to £100 depending on condition.
07847 510662.

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES
Tickets and other sports memorabilia.
Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, also Spectrum +2A S wanted. 01902 892918.

photography & camcorders

CANNON 100-400MM F4.5-5.6L IS
USM Lens. Good condition.
£550.
07855 103494.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE
Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA
Checkatrade.com
Find us on
and we will beat customer's quote

alarms/security

RPME MP I A I PE
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

ClassifiedAds



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W.bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Brought to you by Express & Star

home improvements

Home Improvements
Quality Bathroom and Kitchen installation
Plastering, tiling, carpentry
Greg Blackham
07739 518562
gblackham15@hotmail.co.uk

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavement. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara. 07741 770997

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/household removals, local/nationalwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

STOURBRIDGE REMOVALS reliable, economical, free quote (07802) 876876

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
L 550KDL1 T7 PVWF
BPM LKD PVWF LAL WL1 T7
S ORPLE LS PZNS
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

ClassifiedAds



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

FOUR KITTENS. 3 black and white males, one tabby female. Ready now. £25. 01902 218944.

VERY AFFECTIONATE 12 year old neutered female cat, home needed with retired person, or someone living alone. 07847 360784.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1955, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bathroom, £87 pw, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878



ClassifiedAds

FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

*Advertise any item **FREE** up to the value of **£250** go to:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply click the FreeAds icon

FreeAds

*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE

You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6

or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Need to sell your home fast?

We can help you make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED

COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT

FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS

FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE

LOCAL COMPANY

UOREYS | TRYTMRN PY LNEYSP

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY

for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

0121 405 0797

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

SAVE MONEY OFF YOUR NEWSPAPER?

FREEPHONE 0800 146 540

7 Jobs

motor trade

HGV TECHNICIAN wanted, skilled or semi skilled, class 1 an advantage, hours negotiable, working on a variety of commercial & light vehicles, excellent rates of pay. Ring: 01384 633556 / 07740 171185 or email wendymek@btconnect.com

full time - general

RYDALE CLEANING SERVICES

Require **Cleaning Personnel**

to professionally clean Conservatories, Windows and Driveways.

Experience a benefit but not essential as full training will be given. Full driving license required. Goods rates of pay.

Telephone 0121 559 4211

Windsor High School and Sixth Form

Headteacher: Mr Stephen Lancham, B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

Technology Technician/ Site Assistant

Scale 3, Point 14 - 17 (£14,339 - £15,348 per annum)

Term time only - 37 hours per week (Technician role only)

Or Scale 4, Points 18 - 21, (£18,215 - £20,296)

All year round, 37 hours per week (Technician/Site role)

We are seeking to appoint a creative and enthusiastic Technology Technician to support the teaching and learning within the Technology Faculty.

Providing technical support to the Design and Technology Department, the ideal candidate will have significant practical experience of using engineering and woodworking equipment.

For the right candidate, with suitable skills, there is the possibility of incorporating the role to work with our Site Team during the holiday periods. This would be paid at the higher salary as detailed above.

For an application pack, please visit our website, www.windsor.windsoracademytrust.org.uk or contact us on 0121 550 1452.

Closing date is Thursday 13th October 2016 at 12.30 pm

Windsor High School and Sixth Form is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

ALFA ROMEO MITO

1.6 JTDM Lusso 120BHP, 2009, Black, 77K Miles, Diesel, FSH, 6 Months MOT, Bluetooth, a/c, Great MPG, Good Condition.

£3,825.00 ono

07967 213314

CLIO EXPRESSION DIESEL

2008, 92,000 miles, fsh £30 tax, abs, fsh, long MOT, central locking, pas, diesel, Alloys 3 door

£1,799.

07879 403302.

PEUGEOT 207, 56 reg, 1360cc, lady owner, red, with red/black interior, full MOT, low mileage, good condition, £1,950. Offers: 07973 483797.

TOYOTA COROLLA T3 1.6, 2005, 55,000 Miles, 5 Door, metallic blue, 7 months MOT, Toyota service history £2,300 07870 611402

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES SL350

AUTOMATIC, CONVERTIBLE

54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys, Absolutely pristine.

£9,999.

07836 204450.

deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

MUST BE SEEN

MITSUBISHI L200 DOUBLE CAB

2000 reg,

12 months MoT.

£1,800 ono.

07402 171702.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

NISSAN MICRA

3dr, 2005, 1 lady owner from new, 1

ow mileage, 47,000.

£1,995 ovno.

07980 165680.

NISSAN NOTE 1.6 ACENTA

58 reg. 5 door.

Lady driver.

Bronze.

Good condition.

£1,950 ono.

01902 747180 / 07774 898966.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE DIESEL

2007, 74,000 miles, fsh £30 tax , air con, fsh, diesel, panoramic sunroof, reverse sensors alloys

£1,799.

SOLD

TOYOTA AYGO BLUE

2008, 87,070 Miles, blue, excellent Condition AC, Hands Free Bluetooth, MOT till March 2017.

£1,900

07754082361

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL ASTRA LIGHT 1700 DIESEL

58 plate, 85,025 miles, 6 gears, metallic grey, £500 alarm, MOT, front and rear parking sensors. Only £30 tax per year.

£3,000 ono.

Telephone 07923 191378 or 01384 457219.

VW GOLF 1.4TSI

Petrol, 122PS, MATCH Edition, 2008, 38,700 miles, black, ipod/phone input, new tyres, taxed, 11 months MOT, full service history.

£4,450 ono.

07949 822188.

VW POLO 1.2 S

2005, 82,000 miles. ABS. Electric windows, A/C, Alarm. Long Mot. Alloy wheels, £1,800 ono. 07538 750391.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 320ISE

2002, 67,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, stereo.

£1,000 ono.

07812 004960.

FIAT MULTIPLA 6 SEATER

1.9 JTD Eleganza, 2006, 2 owners, 83,000 miles, MoT till June 2017, very clean.

£1,400 ono.

07730 596969.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

FIAT SEICENTO S

Y Reg., 2002, 1108cc.

3Dr hatchback.

Blue, only 37,000 miles, MoT, radio/CD.

Economical, very reliable.

Very good condition all round.

£475 o.n.o.

07491 068850.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD FIESTA ZETEC

3dr hatchback, black, alloy wheels, 11 months MoT, 77,568 miles, registered 2004, 1388cc, nice all round condition, new battery.

£1,200 ono.

01902 331658 or 07973 799218.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

FORD FOCUS

1.6, 2003, 5-door.

Blue, 96,000 miles.

MoT till June 2017.

Good condition / Good runner.

£750 ono.

0121 561 1548.

07532 188042.

BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS 1.8

2001, 150,000 miles, black, ABS, EW, Air Bag, alarm, MoT, CL, alloys and stereo.

£400

07753 243403.

NISSAN ALMERA SE 2005 5dr petrol, 67,900m, AC, PAS, CL, Electric windows, CD MoTJan17, £450 ono 07855 309326.

NISSAN TERRANO MK2 2000 X Reg, 6 months MoT, new tyres, runs well, colour blue £895 ono. 01902 658007.

MUST BE SEEN

FORD FOCUS GHIA ZETEC

1800cc, 5-dr, S reg, service history, 103,000 miles, MoT Jan 2017, recent new tyres, superb to drive. Very good condition.

£450 ono.

07983 235854.

0121 532 0175.

BARGAIN

FORD KA 1.3

02 reg, blue, 54,000 miles, 1 previous owner, service history, 12 months MoT, very good condition.

£595 ono.

Telephone 01746 862982 or 07932 468704.

MUST BE SEEN

HONDA CIVIC SPORT

3dr hatchback,

Metallic blue.

Needs a bit of TLC.

£600 ono.

07737 879856.

PEUGEOT 206 INDEPENDENT, 54 reg, CD player, alloys, MoT, 2550. Telephone 01902 429693 or 07791 001414.

GOOD RUNNER

RENAULT CLIO 1.2

53 reg. 3 door.

Blue, 68,000 miles.

12 months MoT.

Recent timing belt.

£595.

07860 948741 / 01902 333925.

TOYOTA CELICA VVTi

185g / km, 102,067 miles, petrol, 3 months MoT, Nice condition, red colour.

£850

07896 919610.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL VECTRA

02 plate. Petrol.

1.8. Silver.

Immaculate condition.

FSH. All new parts.

MoT February 23, 2017.

£650 ono.

01902 780189.

BARGAIN

VW PASSAT

Blue, 55 plate.

Sat Nav.

CD multi player.

11 months MoT.

£1,400.

0121 530 2226.

classic cars

CLASSIC CAR

LANDROVER SERIES 2A

SWB, 1969, 2.25 petrol, extensively restored, 11 months MoT, tax exempt, Classic insurance.

£3,900 ovno.

Stourbridge 07711 661068.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

BARGAIN

MORRIS MINOR 1000 SALOON

1968, running restoration project (95% completed), lots of money spent, photo evidence of work undertaken. Currently on SORN. V5 present.

£1,250

01384 829744 / 07966 630912.

driving tuition

Homer's

10 Hours £299 Five Hours £501 2 Hours £200 All Areas Covered AD/PO REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10 07432 458100 / 01562 870050 01384 555019 / 0121 564000 01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMOR RD, WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELY Registered Spares Always Available

0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.

Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

r re l l n d r a

Used cars wanted for cash

Top prices paid. HP settled.

Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax an advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JED(Oel a(S aE) SO JcUc sCAR Hn.sn3Edaf a Mnsa 4Aqa ST h 3Eo st Es4t 3tgv 3 q3gn 3v3gswff, 43E f3a, 3aa E a 42sda fu4 43t, W m Edg E 4 q 3a Q3la fr 53E o 1fs 53l st E4B saygI3E s4ceP r9HQ i f4 g I E / DTD/ SeG3, , dng 4d s E - 3,gnn3,s44 , fuE, gE54f4a nE agE wfggd s I E f,40 d, 4sE5D D/ SeC3a, i g4 4 3a a 42sda g40 4 ga9na i3tgv v,3, 4f Bo 44q3gms 3E 4Ea, sas fu i g4 4 3t 43 E3 gE 6 MLEDM. MDLLG aa Sth45grI wa stf,31 o5 3a B saygI3E s4ter h5B

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

New Nissan van revealed

By James Parker

Following a tantalising glimpse of its distinctive V-motion grille ahead of the UEFA Champions League Final in May, Nissan has now revealed the all-new NV300 van in full.

As the eagerly anticipated replacement for the Primastar, the NV300 sits between NV200/e-NV200 and NV400 in the Nissan LCV range. It's a highly significant model launch as it completes the rejuvenation of the Nissan LCV family line-up.

With this new mid-sized van, Nissan has one of the widest commercial vehicle ranges on the market, allowing dealers to provide a convenient 'one-stop shop' for van, truck and pick-up customers.

Supporting the brand's wider LCV strategy – which also includes the NT400 and NT500 trucks, plus the award-winning Navara pick-up – the NV300 is available as a panel van, crew van and as a Combi passenger vehicle.

In addition, a floor cab version is available as a rolling chassis and is the perfect platform for bespoke conversions.

For unrivalled peace of mind, the NV300 is backed by Nissan's industry-leading five-year / 160,000 km warranty, which also applies to all Nissan genuine accessories fitted to the vehicle.

With its efficient engine range and low servicing costs, the NV300 is a new 'running cost champion' for the segment.

It has been carefully designed to provide

business users with a versatile 'mobile office' environment, offering passenger car levels of cabin comfort and driving refinement. With a range of efficient diesel engines, exceptional on-road dynamics, and in-control driver assistance and safety technologies, the NV300 is an exceptional new LCV.

Built at the Renault-Nissan Alliance plant at Sandouville, France, the NV300 goes on sale across Europe from November.

Trusted

Four engine options are offered on the NV300. All use Nissan's trusted 1.6-litre dCi diesel engine – best known from the brand's Qashqai and X-Trail crossovers – with power outputs of 95hp, 120hp, 125hp and 145hp. The two former are single turbo, while the latter pair are twin turbo.

All engines are mated to a six-speed manual transmission. Not all engines are available with all body styles.

All have a diesel particulate filter as standard and meet Euro 6 emissions standards. In addition, all are fitted with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology; using AdBlue urea solution poured in a separate on-board tank, this permits nitrogen oxide (NOx) reduction reactions to take place in an oxidizing atmosphere, cutting NOx exhaust emissions.

The twin turbo models have Stop & Start engine technology for reduced fuel consumption, plus an ECO mode switch with gear shift indicator. It's also an option on 95bhp unit. This allows drivers to optimise fuel consumption by limiting torque and smoothing accelerator response.

The most efficient panel van is the 125hp, with Combined Cycle fuel economy of 5.9 litres/100km and CO2 emissions of only



It's a highly significant model launch as it completes the rejuvenation of the Nissan LCV family line-up

155g/km. The figures are even better for the Combi, at 5.6 litres/100km and 145g/km.

Across the range, fuel consumption is on average 1.0 litres/100km lower than the Nissan Primastar. When combined with Nissan's unique-in-segment five-year/160,000km warranty – which also applies to all Nissan genuine LCV accessories – and recommended service intervals of two years / 40,000 km, the NV300

is the new running cost champion in the mid-sized LCV sector.

A range of 10 exterior colours is available – the four solid finishes are Magma Red, Mole Grey, Glacier White and Bamboo Green, while the six metallic are Oyster Grey, Mercury Grey, Jet Black, Panorama Blue, Copper Brown and Stone. The standard wheels are 16-inch steel rims, with 16-inch and 17-inch alloys can be specified.



T WALL - USED CAR AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALE



	NOW		
04/14 FORD FUSION 1.4 2 5-dr. 56,000 Miles, Grey.....	£2995	13/63 HYUNDAI I30 1.6 CRDi ACTIVE 5-dr. 15,000 miles, Silver.....	£9495
08/08 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 LIFE 5-dr. 34,000 miles, Silver	£3695	13/13 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi ZETEC Estate, 1900 miles, Red.....	£9495
08/58 PEUGEOT 308 1.6 SE 5-dr. 57,000 miles, Blue.....	£3995	10/60 MERCEDES C-CLASS C200 CDI 4-dr. 35000 miles, Gold.....	£10,495
08/58 FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC 3-dr. 35,000 miles, Purple	£3995	15/15 FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCi ZETEC 3-dr. 13,000 miles, Blue	£10,695
12/12 SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 S24 5-dr. 16,000 miles, Grey	£4195	13/13 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 COOPER 5-dr. 24,000 miles, Green	£10,695
11/11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi EXCITE 5-dr. 69,000 miles, Red	£4495	08/58 VOLKSWAGEN TOUAREG 2.5 TDi SE Automatic, 5-dr. 56,000 miles, Black.....	£10,995
10/10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIV AUTOMATIC 5-dr. Grey, 75,000 miles	£4695	13/13 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 COOPER S 5-dr. Red/Black, 38,000 miles	£11,195
11/61 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE Automatic, 5-dr. 68,000 miles, Grey	£4995	USED STOCK JUST ARRIVED	
10/10 FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE 3-dr. 37,000 miles, Blue	£5295	08/08 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 BREEZER 3-dr. Black, 39,000 miles	£3795
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SX4 S-Cross so very good

By Graham Breeze

The facelifted Suzuki SX4 S-Cross arrives in showrooms this month equipped with the company's amazing Boosterjet petrol engine and ready to take on the small SUV sector.

"Amazing" is the only word to describe an engine unit offering nine per cent more torque than the outgoing 1.6litre petrol, with 11 per cent lower CO2 emissions and 10 per cent improved fuel consumption.

Crazy figures I know – but real. Doubters have been mocking my raving monologues all week after returning from the vehicle's launch totally gobsmacked by the performance of the Boosterjet unit under the bonnet of the completely new SX4 S-Cross.

Available with 1.0 litre or 1.4 litre Boosterjet petrol engines and a 1.6 litre DDiS version, which emits just 106g/km of CO2 and offers fuel consumption of 68.8mpg on the combined cycle, you can see just why Suzuki bosses are particularly upbeat at the moment.

Suzuki originally created the S-Cross by combining its compact car knowledge with technologies honed for sport utility vehicles. As a result of focusing on giving the S-Cross distinctive crossover styling, class leading space for passengers and luggage, 4WD performance and one of the lowest CO2 emissions in the segment, it achieves a solid combination of styling, utility, safety, performance and fuel economy.

The company is targeting just 5,000 sales in the UK in the next 12 months and expects the fleet market to take note of the outstanding economy figures taking 50 per cent of those sales. And with prices from £14,999 to £22,849 those sales could well come from buyers who

would normally choose the more expensive Vauxhall Astra.

The S-Cross first went on sale in October 2013 and now, three years later, the major facelifted model is introduced with more distinctive and upright front end styling offering a stronger and bolder road presence.

Ground clearance is now slightly higher at 180mm versus 165mm and new design headlamps help provide both higher efficiency and a sharper look. At the rear, newly designed LED rear combination lamps are used to provide a cleaner and more contemporary style.

The distinctive new interior design utilises an updated soft-touch dashboard pad, framing highlights for the centre panel and newly designed seat fabric for SZ4 and SZ-T models.

Spacious

S-Cross claims ample room for five occupants and while the back is spacious enough you really wouldn't want to travel as one of three. A double sliding panoramic glass sunroof is fitted as standard on the SZ5 model with one of the largest opening areas in its category at 560mm.

All SZ4 models are equipped as standard with seven airbags, ESP, Bluetooth, DAB digital radio, air conditioning, Daytime Running Lights (DRL), 16-inch alloy wheels, cruise control with speed limiter, air conditioning, heated door mirrors, black protective skid plates and black wheel arch extensions.

SZ-T adds LED Projector Headlamps, satellite navigation, polished 17-inch alloy wheels, rear parking camera, front and rear parking proximity sensors, Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, front fog lamps, rear privacy glass, silver roof rails and silver rear skid plates.

Suzuki introduced the SZ-T model specifically with fleet buyers in mind, although it is available to retail customers as well.



Equipment for the top of the range SZ5 model includes Radar Brake Support (RBS), leather seat upholstery, heated front seats, double sliding panoramic sunroof and aluminium roof rails.

A range of six exterior colours are available for the UK market; Superior White is available as a solid colour with Silky Silver Metallic, Mineral Grey Metallic, Cosmic Black Pearl Metallic, Sphere Blue Pearl Metallic and Energetic Red Pearl Metallic available as a £430 option.

CO2 emissions are competitive across the range at just 113g/km for the 1.0-litre 2WD model and 119g/km with optional automatic transmission. The DDiS 2WD model achieves

even lower CO2 emissions of 106g/km that result in an annual VED charge of just £20 – another reason why fleet buyers will be attracted.

Suzuki's ALLGRIP system is available on SZ-T and SZ5 models with four driver-selectable modes.

It debuted in the S-Cross model at first launch and has proved very successful in both this model and Vitara.

Pick of the range for me has to be the 1.0 litre Boosterjet SZ-T which hits the road at £19,499 and has a top speed of 112mph, does 0-62mph in 11 seconds and produces 56.4mpg on the combined cycle while producing only 113g/km of emissions. That means

no road tax in the first year and just £30 afterwards. The model is well equipped with ABS, EBD, Brake Assist, ESP and hill-hold control. Driver and passenger safety is dealt with by seven airbags, side impact protection beams, an immobiliser and deadlocks.

The 1.4-litre engine offers strong benefits in performance too with a 0-62mph acceleration time of 10.2 seconds for both manual and automatic transmissions and a maximum speed (where permitted) of 124mph.

I've long been a fan of Ford's 1.0 litre engine but the three-cylinder Boosterjet might just have the edge. This is a Suzuki that you just have to drive to understand just how good it is.

NEW

SX4

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The new SX4 S-Cross will be arriving in showrooms from October. With powerful new Boosterjet engines, ALLGRIP 4-wheel Drive technology*, advanced safety features and spacious interior, the new SX4 S-Cross has the perfect synergy of comfort and capability. Once you see it, you'll be eager to get behind the wheel, so to be one of the first to experience the new SX4 S-Cross book your test drive today.

Contact Halesowen Motor House today to find out more about our new SX4-Cross.

Request a Test Drive today: suzuki.co.uk/halesowenmotorhouse

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Dudley Road, , Halesowen, B63 3NH, **0121 503 0001**

Model shown: SX4 S-Cross SZ5 ALLGRIP at £22,849 on the road (metallic paint available at £430). Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki SX4 S-Cross range mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km): Urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 61.4 (4.6), extra urban from 54.3 (5.2) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 49.5 (5.7) to 68.8 (4.1). Official CO2 emissions from 128g/km to 106g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *SZ-T and SZ5 models only.

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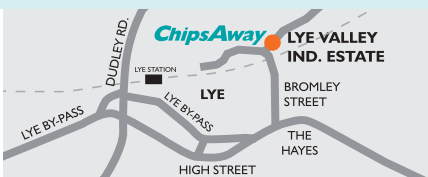
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DRIVETIME



Unusual replica, it's brick-built!

Caterham has revealed its newest model, but it's not quite how you'd imagine.

Far from being a high-powered sports car crafted from steel and aluminium, this 620R is created from something slightly different – LEGO.

It is the first time that a Caterham has been made from the iconic plastic bricks, with this model standing 10cm tall and 28cm long.

All-in-all, it is made up of 770 pieces, making it a challenge for even the most experienced modeller.

The kit even includes a replica Caterham engine and gear stick.

There's also a removable nose cone and engine cover, as well as functioning axle standard and a working steering wheel.

The car was originally submitted to the LEGO Ideas platform, where it gained 10,000 votes. The LEGO Ideas Review team then chose the 620R to go into full production.

David Ridley, Caterham chief commercial officer, said: "Caterham has always prided itself on producing bespoke, hand-built cars for its customers.

"Our army of fans who build their own Caterham Sevens are equally discerning when it comes to the detail and craftsmanship which is central to Caterham, and we worked closely with the LEGO team to ensure the model replicated that.

"The LEGO 620R has various unique features – the intricately-designed engine was certainly a surprise when we lifted the bonnet for the first time. It's really satisfying to know that fans can recreate and build their own 620R with LEGO bricks."

Priced at £69, the Caterham LEGO 620R will be available to buy now.

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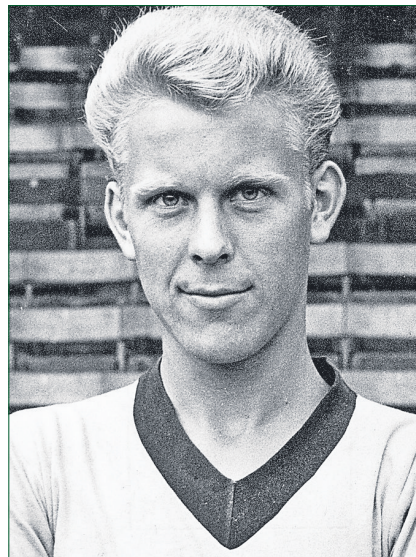
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Hawkins, front row, left, with the Wolves squad ahead of the First Division season in August 1983



Hawkins as a player in 1963



Hawkins pictured three years ago



Celebrations as Wolves are promoted at the end of the 82/83 season



Hawkins with Derek Dougan and John Ireland back in 1983

Dedicated ex-boss made life better for patients

MEL EVES has led the tributes to 'one of the greats' **Graham Hawkins**, who died last week at the age of 70.

Hawkins won promotion with Wolves both as a player and a manager, graduating through the club from a boyhood fan to boss the team he once watched from the terraces.

And Eves described Hawkins – who raised money for fellow cancer patients at Shrewsbury's Royal Hospital after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2009 – as 'a pleasure to be around'.

After being relegated from Division One at the end of the 1981/82 season, Hawkins was the man tasked with getting Wolves straight back to the promised land.

Hawkins, who helped the team gain promotion to the top flight as player in 1967, arrived from Shrewsbury, where he served as an assistant to Graham Turner, to take the reins at Molineux – and succeeded immediately.

Moulded

Wolves finished second – 10 points behind Queens Park Rangers – to go back up at the first time of asking, with the likes of Eves, Andy Gray and Kenny Hibbitt starring.

"It is a really sad loss," said Eves. "He moulded a great team. There was a really good mix of senior pros and young lads in the side."

"He did a really good job with players such as Andy Gray, Kenny Hibbitt, myself, John Humphrey, Dale Rudge, Ian Cartwright, Bobby Coy."

"We did really well to get promoted and there was a really great team spirit there among the players."

"I finished top scorer that season and he had the faith to put me up front alongside Andy Gray."

"It was just unfortunate in the following season he

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Edwards

"It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers."

was left out to dry," Eves added. "We probably needed three or four more players so that was disappointing for everybody."

Wolves struggled in the following season, back in the top flight, and Hawkins was sacked in April 1984 with the club heading for the first of three successive relegations.

It was a dark period for the club which almost resulted in extinction.

After management, Hawkins worked for the Football League as head of youth development, helping hundreds of young footballers make the grade as professionals.

"When Graham was in his role with the Football League, he always conducted himself impeccably – he was very professional," Eves said.

"He was really easy to get on with and a pleasure to be around."

"I think the last time I saw him was at the London Wolves 50th anniversary, which was not long ago. I knew he had been struggling for a while but he managed to do an awful lot of fundraising."

Laurie Dalrymple, managing director of Wolves, said: "Graham made a huge contribution not only to

Wolves but to football in general during his career. He was widely respected and well-liked, both inside and outside of football. It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

Hawkins is survived by wife Jane, sons Ian and Richard and grandchildren Lauren, Amy, Holly and Louisa.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital staff described Hawkins' fundraising efforts as 'magnificent'.

Dr Sheena Khanduri, clinical lead for cancer services at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "The trust has lost a great friend and supporter."

"Graham's magnificent fundraising efforts really helped to improve the experience of our patients."

"His fundraising efforts included donating iPads which offered a distraction and something else for patients to think about whilst they receive their treatment in our Haematology Day Centre and the Chemotherapy Day Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

Legendary

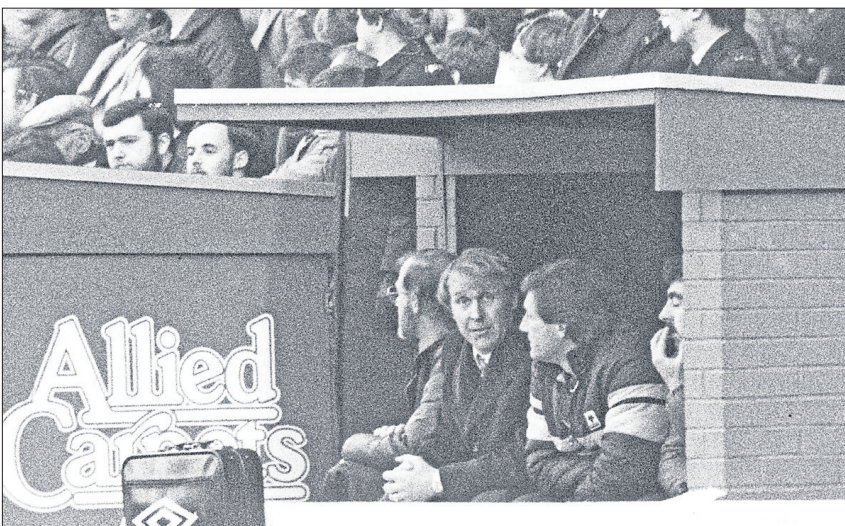
"On behalf of the trust I would like to pass on my condolences to Graham's family."

Mr Hawkins was in the dugout at the Gay Meadow in the early 1980s alongside legendary manager Graham Turner before his move to Molineux.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive at Shrewsbury Town, said: "Graham will be remembered by many Shrewsbury Town fans for the work he did alongside Graham Turner as his assistant manager."

"It was a spell where the club played at the highest level in English football so far and Graham is remembered fondly by Town fans for being part of that."

"The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Graham's wife, Jane, his sons, Ian and Richard and the rest of his family and friends at this sad time."



Hawkins in the Wolves hotseat, watching on from the dugout during a game at St Andrew's in 1984



Grahams Turner and Hawkins reunite at Shrewsbury Hospital as the latter visits to hand over computer equipment



Gloves off in Eggington v Gavin clash

THE gloves are off between Sam Eggington and Frankie Gavin as the fighting talk begins for their long-awaited clash this month.

The increasingly-fierce rivals will contest the WBC International welterweight title in the main event at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday October 22.

The contest was due to take place at the same venue in October last year. It will, again, be live on Sky Sports.

The first build-up, prior to Gavin's withdrawal with a foot injury, had been relatively sedate but words were exchanged during the first head-to-head at the arena this time.

Stourbridge's Eggington claimed he'd been called 'dim' and 'dumb' by Gavin in an interview and vowed to make him pay for those comments.

Eggington said: "I don't mind a bit of criticism, it comes with anything. But when it's personal, I have a problem with that. I'm in a different mindset now and I'll be looking to knock him out."

Gavin said: "What I meant was my opinion that Sam has limited boxing ability, which I've stated on many occasions before. I've got superior skills and I think I'll have far too much for him."

Promoter Eddie Hearn has revealed Brummie Craig Cunningham, who lives in Oldbury, and Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, will appear on the under-card.

An all-Birmingham title fight will see Gamal Yafai defend his Commonwealth super bantamweight strap against English boss Sean Davis.

Two English titles will also be contested with a rematch for Don Broadhurst and Louis Norman.

Midlands lightweight champion Marcus Ffrench fights Central area counterpart Robbie Barrett. Midlands light welter titlist Andy Keates makes his first area defence against Jordan Cooke.

Benbow's spot on as Glassboys come back from behind

Ilkeston 1 Stourbridge 2
LUKE Benbow lashed home a decisive penalty as Stourbridge fought back from a first-half deficit to win at Ilkeston in the FA Cup.

Glassboys talisman Leon Broadhurst cancelled out Rory Coleman's early effort before Benbow settled matters 13 minutes into the second half.

Victory over Nantwich will put Stourbridge into the first round proper for the fifth time in eight seasons.

Chances were at a premium until Coleman headed the Robins in front from a Luis Rose delivery with 16 minutes on the clock of this third qualifying round tie. Stour drew level when Leon Broadhurst emphatically finished from Drew Canavan's corner.

The Glassboys remained in charge in the second half with Kayelden Brown close to taking advantage of a mix up at the back but his decision to square for Chris Lait allowed a defender to get back and block. But when Lait was upended by Jak Kenworthy moments later, Benbow was on hand to slam home the spot-kick.

Old Hales tame Lions on their own patch



The Thorns and Roses squad

Peterborough Lions 12 Old Hales 19
THE visitors upset the odds, despite falling 6-0 behind in eight minutes.

Chris Hooper missed a penalty, but slotted a conversion after captain Steve Leach touched down.

The game was prevented from open rugby due to the referee's incessant whistle. This resulted in penalties and yellow cards as he gradually lost control and respect from both sides.

A Peterborough infringement was penalised by a Hooper penalty. Two more kicks, one for each side, ended

the first half scoring. Shortly after the restart, the home side converted a penalty to pull the score back to 13-12.

Hales were reduced to 12 men, but once back to full strength saw Hooper add two more penalties.

Hales meet Sandbach at home on Saturday, kick off 3pm.

The second team beat Bromsgrove 2nds 72-0 and the thirds lost to Chaddesley 1sts 48-12 in a friendly.

The under-16s beat Barker Butts 43-12.

● Since its launch in July, Old

Halesonians girls rugby team has been growing in numbers.

Under the banner of Old Halesonians Thorns and Roses the girls section incorporates an u-13s and an u-15s team and enjoyed a successful first tournament at Camp Hill, with u-13s player Corey Humphries named player of the tournament.

In their second fixture, the Thorns and Roses came top overall at Walsall RFC.

Contact oldhalesgirls@gmail.com for more information.

Heathens and Brummies in showdown

CRADLEY go into Monday's derby showdown with Birmingham looking to save their season.

The Heathens have been picked by their neighbours as play-off opponents after the Brummies ran away with the league leaders spot in the regular season.

The first leg is at Perry Barr tonight (Thursday) before Monday's second leg at Monmore.

If they miss out on Monday it is more than likely there will be no more home meetings as Heathens are massive underdogs in the Knockout Cup semi-final at Eastbourne.

It means the riders are under pressure to spring a surprise and beat the Brummies – or the curtain comes down on their first season back at Monmore.

"Birmingham are a very good team and they've got probably the best two reserves in the league in the two Jacks (Parkinson-Blackburn and Smith)," said Heathen Bradley Andrews.

"But my confidence has grown every week and I'll be doing what I can to go out there and beat them and get some points for the team.

"We know it's going to be tough against Birmingham because they've only lost one meeting all season. But if we can make some good starts and cut out the last places then I reckon we can push them much closer than we did in the league.

"We need to keep the scores as close as we can at their place and then we need to go for it at home. We've been a lot stronger at home all year really and we'd like to use that to our advantage again.

"Personally, I know I've learnt a lot this year. It was tough to start with but since I was dropped it gave me a kick up the backside and I feel a lot more confident."

Yozza hits bullseye with England glory

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes was part of the England men's side that were crowned team champions and came overall runners-up in the WDF Europe Cup in Egmond Aan Zee, Holland.

Hughes endured disappointment at the first hurdle in the singles, beaten 4-1 by Scotland's Ross Montgomery. Montgomery and Alan Soutar then beat Hughes and Glen Durrant in the doubles.

In the team event, Hughes, Durrant, Scott Mitchell and James Hurrell beat Finland and Northern Ireland before then triumphing 9-1 against Holland in the final.

★★★

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YELTZ MISS OUT ON DERBY TIE

Nantwich Town 2 Halesowen Town 1
HALESOWEN missed out on a lucrative 4th qualifying round home tie against Black Country neighbours Stourbridge after Nantwich notched their first home win of the season through two first half goals.

Yeltz goalkeeper Dan Platt had a busy first period and he palmed away a 13th minute shot from Ibou Touray.

A minute later Nantwich were awarded a penalty but Platt made a splendid save to keep out Sean Cooke's spot-kick. The keeper then plucked out a 24th minute shot from Matt Bell.

Nantwich finally broke the deadlock after 39 minutes, though, after Cooke exchanged passes with Touray and Cooke advanced into the penalty area to slot past Platt.

Thunderbolt

Worse was to come before the break as the Dabbers doubled the lead in the final minute of the half, captain Sam Hall with a superb 30 yard thunderbolt into the top corner, leaving the Yeltz with a mountain to climb.

Halesowen came out brighter after the interval as Kaiman Anderson fired just wide after 49 minutes and substitute Ethan Delaney almost nipped through the home defence in the 71st minute.

Leading striker Anderson pulled a goal back for Halesowen after 72 minutes with a skilful flick converting Danny Bragoli's cross to set up a tense ending.

But the Dabbers held on, although Jordan Goddard's effort was agonisingly wide in the fifth minute of injury time.

The day FA Cup came to town



Halesowen Town club representatives get their hands on the FA Cup at The Grove

THE FA Cup came to town as the famous trophy arrived at The Grove.

The presence of the cup was the Yeltz reward for being names club of the round for the second qualifying stage.

In the game itself, Halesowen Town were forced to replay after Kaiman Anderson's ninth goal of the season was pegged back by a late deflected goal in a game of few chances.

Striker Anderson put Halesowen ahead after 62 min-

utes by slotting calmly past Dave Parton after collecting a through-ball from substitute James Hancock.

The visitors, unbeaten away from home, drew level in the 76th minute.

Captain Sam Hall's shot from the edge of the area took a huge deflection off substitute team-mate Josh Hancock to loop over stranded Platt.

The Dabbers almost won the tie in injury time when Theo Stair curled just wide.



The famous trophy on show

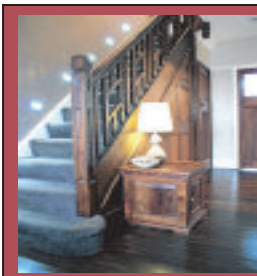
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